

## BL chairman stands firm over dismissed union leader

Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of BL, and all his senior managers will resign rather than bow to union pressure for the reinstatement of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed

shop steward, company sources revealed yesterday. It was also made clear last night that the leaders of the two biggest unions are ready to endorse strike action.

## Strike likely to be made official

By Clifford Webb and Donald Macintyre

The BL executive team led by Sir Michael Edwardes were said last night to be preparing to face the strike threat from the unofficial combined shop stewards over the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson by resigning if an official stoppage is declared.

This report, from company sources, comes on the eve of today's meeting between Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Mr (Mostyn) Moss Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Their threat leaves the union leaders in no doubt that if they bow to regional pressure for the strike to be made official then that could well be the final crisis for the last surviving big British-owned motor manufacturer.

BL sources last night were adamant that Sir Michael had made it clear that his credibility with the Government, who are being asked for another £575m and with his factory managers, was at stake. Rather than see his credibility damaged, he would resign.

Mr Duffy, to whose union Mr Robinson, the Longbridge centre, belongs, and Mr Evans made it clear that both unions were ready to endorse the protest action that has already seriously hampered car production.

Mr Duffy said that he expected his union's executive at its regular meeting tomorrow to give an affirmative reply to the unanimous request from the Birmingham West District Committee that their strike be made official.

The two union leaders will discuss the issue today when they attend a meeting in London of the TUC's finance and general purposes committee.

Mr Evans, who has been officially requested by his union's key policy-making committee in the Midlands to endorse strike action, will hold off

from doing so, out of courtesy to the AUEW, until after he has met Mr Duffy and possibly until Tuesday.

The other senior executives who are apparently prepared to resign with Sir Michael are Mr David Andrews, deputy chairman, Mr Ray Horrocks, the head of all BL car operations, Mr David Bell, commercial vehicles chief, and Mr Patrick Lowry, group personnel director, and industrial relations expert.

On Friday the transport union's West Midlands Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended that the strike be made official. It immediately set up a strike committee to co-ordinate the efforts of its 20,000 members who have withdrawn their labour.

Mr Brian Mathers, the regional secretary, indicated after the meeting that it was "only a formality" and a matter of hours before Mr Evans would declare the strike official.

If the AUEW has not received any other official district committee requests it is likely initially to make the strike official only at Longbridge. Because of its engine-producing facility, a protracted stoppage there would be the company's biggest, unavoidably affecting production in other parts of the group.

Mr Duffy, however, said that the union would have to consider any requests for support from other districts. He acknowledged that he did not agree with the political views of Mr Robinson, a communist, but added: "It is a question of the principle and whether he was fairly dismissed. There are too many people in the Midlands about Leyland and too few people producing cars. But on this occasion production has been interrupted because of a decision of management."

Mr Duffy repeated that the union had been assured that despite the plant, the company was backing for the company's reorganization plans, it had not

been consulted or even given a warning about the dismissal of Mr Robinson before it occurred.

Mr Evans said that the views expressed in the pamphlet which Mr Robinson and his three colleagues had signed, attacking Sir Michael Edwardes's plan for the future of the company, were "not inconsistent with TGWU policy" or with Lord Ryder's now abandoned plan for the future of the company.

The TGWU's literature on Sir Michael's plan had been "in favour of expansion of the company and not for contraction". He added: "We believe that further contraction will provide a further incentive for foreign imports."

The company, which is still placing its faith in the ballot of employees showing a large majority for Sir Michael's plan, hinted last night that Mr Lowry and Mr Horrocks might be available for a meeting with Mr Evans and Mr Duffy if it was requested.

In fact, Mr Duffy and Mr Evans, who would almost certainly like to see Sir Michael himself, may well defer a request for a meeting until after the decisions to make the dispute official.

The unofficial committee has called for a "day of action and demonstration" by the whole trade union movement in Birmingham today. A march through the city centre is planned.

But Mr Harold Musgrove, managing director of Austin-Morris, said anyone who turned up for work would be paid even if he could not perform his usual task. Arrangements had been made as usual for the fleet of coaches to pick up Longbridge workers from outlying areas.

About 40,000 car workers are on strike or laid off. The most serious stoppage is at Longbridge, where 13,000 of the 15,000 manual workers are on strike. Together with the strike at the big Castle Bromwich plant, this is causing a shortage of engines and bodies throughout the group.

## Howe warning on 18% pay rises

By George Clark Political Correspondent

Emphasizing the need for realism in the conduct of wage bargaining, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday gave a warning that settlements averaging an 18 per cent increase would lead to hundreds of bankruptcies and the loss of hundreds of thousands to the total of unemployed.

He said the Government was opposed to a wages freeze, and those trade union leaders who claimed that they must go for high wage increases in the present wages round to safeguard themselves against a freeze in a year's time were misleading their members. The prime need was for moderation in wage demands and settlements.

Sir Geoffrey was being interviewed about the economy by Mr Brian Walden, the former Labour MP, in the independent television programme *Weekend World*. He was asked: "There's no question of your introducing a pay freeze next January or next February?" He replied: "Oh no, absolutely not." The Chancellor saw no realistic alternative to the Government's present strategy.

"We must go on plodding down this painfully difficult road of getting people to understand their responsibility for their own pay bargaining, their own jobs," he said.

Sir Geoffrey was cautious about the prospects for further income tax cuts in the next Budget. He saw at the top of his priorities changes in the capital tax system. It was taxes on capital which were preventing people from building up and expanding businesses.

He believed it was wrong to describe the Ford workers, who had negotiated a 21.5 per cent pay increase, as the "pace setters" for the current bout of wage negotiations. Settlements had to be at a figure which was tolerable and acceptable in keeping a company competitive and profitable.

Mr Walden asked what the Chancellor expected would be the outcome of the present pay television programme *Weekend World*. He replied: "There's no question of your introducing a pay freeze next January or next February?" He replied: "Oh no, absolutely not." The Chancellor saw no realistic alternative to the Government's present strategy.

monetary supply figure, but it would be a move in the right direction.

Mr Walden said that the Chancellor had given the impression in the past that reduction in tax on personal incomes would be a continuous process. Now he seemed to be saying it would be intermittent. Sir Geoffrey said: "It may well have to be." But he stated it. "How fast we go depends on the balance in the rest of the economy," he added.

Reflecting the views of many Conservative MPs who believe the Government should keep to its promise progressively to reduce personal income tax, Mr Michael Latham, MP for Melton, last night said that another 3p cut in the standard rate would cost £1,450m.

He listed seven increases in duties "which fall either on luxuries or can be justified on energy-conservation grounds" which would raise £1.5m in a full year. These included a 10p increase on a 20 "king-size" packet of tipped cigarettes, bringing in £420m, and a 10p a gallon extra duty on petrol, raising £500m.

Little hope of income tax cuts, page 15

## Deadline rejected by Patriotic Front

Dar es Salaam, Nov 25.—The leaders of the Patriotic Front, Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, said today that they refused to meet Britain's deadline for a reply to cease-fire proposals for Zimbabwe Rhodesia.

After six hours of talks last night with leaders of three of Black Africa's front line states, Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe said Britain's cease-fire proposals were unacceptable. Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who is chairman of the peace talks in London, set a deadline of tomorrow for a "yes" or "no" reply to his cease-fire proposals. The guerrilla leaders plan to return to London and reopen negotiations with Lord Carrington tomorrow, but Mr Mugabe said: "There will be no reply on the basis of this (cease-fire) document."

Mr Nkomo said that the Patriotic Front had requested the convening of an emergency meeting to discuss the British proposals, and "they clearly understand and support our position."

The Patriotic Front leaders said their objections hinged on proposals that guerrilla forces should be shelled into designated assembly areas, while Government forces were allowed to remain in their original bases.

Mugabe said the Front also objected to not being permitted to negotiate directly with representatives of the Salisbury administration. "Why cannot the Rhodesians come and talk to us so we can agree on the basic principles of the cease-fire without having to talk by proxy through Carrington?" he asked.

There was no comment on the talks from the front line chairman, President Julius Nyerere at Tanzania. President Samora Machel of Mozambique and Vice-President Quett Masire of Botswana also took part in the talks. Members of the front line group, Zambia and Angola, were not represented.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia did not attend, presumably because of the situation in his country, which has been placed on a war footing after raids by Zimbabwe Rhodesian forces.

Kaunda Attack: President Kaunda said today that Lord Carrington was a rich man who would find it difficult to understand the situation in the world, he said. He said he expected him to be fair, against his interests?

Last May, Mr Nkomo said Lord Carrington was chairman of the Rio Tinto Mining Group and had given the company a huge cash bonus. He said he expected him to be fair, against his interests?

The union demanded that an international doctors' commission should examine him at once with a view to his release. Herr Hess is 85.

As far as can be ascertained, Herr Hess's condition is not alarming. A well-informed source said he had refused to undergo an operation unless he could see his whole family together first.

The prison rules permit only one monthly visit by one family member for half an hour. Tomorrow his son, Herr Wolf Rudiger Hess, will see him.



Congressman George Hansen of Idaho leaving the American Embassy in Tehran yesterday.

## Iran diplomacy switch as US fleet nears Gulf

From Robert Fisk Tehran, Nov 25

In an extraordinary diplomatic change of heart, Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the Iranian Foreign Minister, tonight announced an immediate trip to New York to address the United Nations Security Council and then within three hours postponed the visit for almost two weeks.

He had decided to explain to the Council why Iran was demanding the extradition of the deposed Shah, but the announcement of the postponement then claimed that the minister had decided to stay in Iran for the constitutional referendum at the beginning of next month.

It seemed that Mr Bani-Sadr's proposed trip had been prompted, more by his concern at the deepening crisis over the American Embassy hostages and the possibility of American military action than by a sudden desire to explain his country's case to the American people.

Yet officially Iran remains unperturbed by the prospect of American military intervention. The Iranian Navy has been put on alert at its southern bases, the naval commander has made optimistic noises about his force's ability to guard the country's shores and Ayatollah Khomeini has spoken of the preparedness of Iranians to face martyrdom in a war with the United States.

But the American aircraft carrier, *Kitty Hawk*, with its destroyer escort is expected to stream into the approaches to the Gulf tomorrow evening, and the more moderate members of the Revolutionary Council—Mr Bani-Sadr, among them—must have been counselling a political demarche to end the state of near-hostilities.

As so often in a political upheaval, the very epicentre of the crisis—the American Embassy compound in Tehran where Muslim students are holding 49 United States staff hostages—has taken on an unreal, almost carnival atmosphere. Outside the embassy walls, where hamburger stands and posters scold the roadside crowds are addressed each day by different religious speakers. The timetable for these lectures on the evils of American "imperialism" are now broadcast daily by the Iranian state radio.

If the students at the embassy regard their siege as a form of theatre, and it is increasingly difficult to resist this interpretation—then today's star must have been Congressman George Hansen from Idaho. The students said tonight that no intervention by a third party would prevent them from putting their hostages on trial for spying. But Congressman Hansen, a tall, well-built man with

grey hair and an instantly kind face, talked like a

man who thought when he arrived in Tehran last week after paying his own way from Washington that the Republican Congressmen would manage to do more than meet a few junior officials or get himself locked up with the hostages. In the event, however, the college-bred lawyer, who had called his way into the embassy, found that he was

in a "dialogue" with the students, charged to the hostages and then left through the main gate for a good-natured conversation with the demonstrators. He certainly made Mr Sean MacBride look more than a little ineffective. The Irish Nobel prize winner and founder of Amnesty International—until Mr Hansen had come

Continued on page 6, col 2

## Hess health said to be failing

From Gretel Spitzer Berlin, Nov 25

The health of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy and last inmate of Spandau prison, is deteriorating, the Berlin Union for Human Rights said yesterday.

The union demanded that an international doctors' commission should examine him at once with a view to his release. Herr Hess is 85.

As far as can be ascertained, Herr Hess's condition is not alarming. A well-informed source said he had refused to undergo an operation unless he could see his whole family together first.

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## Saudis plan to starve out last rebels

From Our Correspondent Jeddah, Nov 25

Saudi troops were this evening in almost complete control of the Great Mosque in Mecca, with only a few of the Saudis who occupied the mosque at dawn on Tuesday still at liberty, holding out in the maze of cellars and tunnels beneath.

According to reports from Mecca a final surprise push was made yesterday evening after a day of silence. The constant shooting has stopped. Although an official statement was promised as soon as what are described as the "renegades from Islam" are rounded up, none has been given today.

The Government is making little effort to flush out the Saudis from below the mosque, hoping instead to starve them into surrender. With the reported ten snipers cleared from each of the seven minarets, there is no immediate threat. Helicopter patrols have stopped, and troops are standing guard on the walls of the mosque. The debris of three days of fraternal slaughter and of mopping up is being cleared, excluding the wreckage of a helicopter shot down inside the mosque.

A Mecca newspaper, *Al-Nadwa*, published the first pictures of the siege today, one showing a thick plume of smoke rising from the courtyard of the mosque. Another showed bullet holes in a minaret. It said that those arrested were undergoing interrogation in prison. Other papers carried the fatwas, a religious ruling with the force of law in Saudi Arabia, delivered on Tuesday, that force could be used against those who have so placed themselves outside the bounds of Islam.

The 300 attackers, mainly from the Qahtani tribe, but said to contain elements of Harb and Qahtani, had demanded recognition of their leader as Mahdi, an "Islamic government" and the burning of radio, television, football, and concert from the mosque walls. The debris of three days of fraternal slaughter and of mopping up is being cleared, excluding the wreckage of a helicopter shot down inside the mosque.

Many casualties? The casualties during the siege were "in the hundreds", sources said. The fate of the hostages was still unclear but Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister, indicated that some of the rebels may have been taken hostage with them. This conflict with newspaper reports that "all members of the group" had been arrested.

## Floods block roads after deluge

Traffic came to a standstill in the Lake District yesterday as torrential rain flooded roads to a depth of up to three feet. Many houses were flooded.

An inch and a half of rain, half the monthly average, fell in 24 hours. Police described the situation chaotic.

Keswick, which was the worst-affected place, was virtually cut off. Council workmen issued sandbags as householders prepared for the worst floods of the year. The roads blocked included the A591 from Keswick to Kendal, the main route through the heart of Lakeland.

A police official at Keswick said: "Flooding is very severe. Every available man is on call."

Heavy rain and strong winds brought flooding to many parts of west and central Scotland. Cars were stranded in the Stirling and Falkirk areas and the A82 Glasgow to Fort William road was impassable at Luss, Loch Lomondside. There was heavy flooding in places on the A74 between Glasgow and Carlisle.

Forecast, page 2

## British U-turn on EEC farm policy

Despite all its complaints about the cost of EEC farm policy Britain joined a majority of other member states in Brussels to reject cuts proposed by the European Parliament in subsidies paid to milk producers. This about-turn, which angered the Dutch and Italians, was motivated by a desire not to antagonize the French whose support on the budget question Mrs Thatcher is hoping for at the Dublin summit meeting.

**£2,000m for airport**  
Capital expenditure on a third London airport could total £2,000m, local authorities have warned the Study Group on South East Airports, which is advising the Government on a choice of sites. The group's report makes no recommendation about the most suitable of seven sites.

## Sihanouk plea

An appeal for an international conference to end the fighting in Kampuchea was made in Paris yesterday by Prince Norodom Sihanouk. But the former Kampuchean head of state said that only military pressure would get the Vietnamese and Russians to the conference table.



Warning, disappointed: West Germany has discounted warnings by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister (above), Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said he believed the Soviet Union would negotiate on limiting nuclear weapons in Europe despite Mr Gromyko's warnings to the contrary.

## Heart man's progress

Heart transplant patient Mr Andrew Barlow continues to make satisfactory progress at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge. He was allowed up for breakfast yesterday and was visited by his wife.

## Obscenity inquiry

Professor Bernard Williams, chairman of the committee of inquiry into obscenity law, defended his report, which is to be published on Wednesday. It recommends far-reaching changes.

## Taxi men complain of harassment

Taxi drivers in Liverpool have asked for talks with Merseyside police chiefs, complaining of police harassment. Two drivers were arrested on Saturday, and afterwards there were a number of demonstrations by other drivers.

## More BSC cutbacks

The British Steel Corporation is planning more substantial redundancies, including white-collar workers. The aim of the new plan is to enable BSC to break even financially by the end of March.

## Fortune in snow

The housekeeper in a Moscow block of flats invented a snow-clearing machine. Since the authorities were unable to reproduce it on a large scale, the housekeeper now uses the machine to clear the snow in his neighbourhood, thus quadrupling his salary.

Blunt affair: Mr Christopher Mayhew explains his 1936 visit to the Soviet Union.

Civic pride: Denial of the mayoral limousine causes a council rift at Merthyr Tydfil.

Letter: On the National Enterprise Board, from Sir Leslie Murphy; on the free world and Iran, from Lord Gishborough and others; on the film *Life of Brian*, from Mr Richard Adams.

Leading articles: Nato's nuclear arms; civil emergencies.

Features, pages 8-12. Nicholas Ashford explains the tribal background to the Zimbabwe Rhodesia election; Michael Hornsby on the tough line facing Mrs Thatcher in Dublin this week; the Thames Barrier by Alan Hamilton.

Obituary, page 14. Miss Mervin Oberon, Mr Hugh McNeill.

Arts, page 9. William Mann reviews Shirley Verrett's *Norma* at Covent Garden, and John Ralston the ENO *Macbeth*. The Michael Rooker on the three-hour television play *Suez* 1956.

Sport, pages 20-22. Tennis: Miss Nastavova wins Brighton tournament; Cricket: England draw against Universities; Racing: Champion Jockey back after injury.

Business News, pages 15-20. Financial Editor: An advantage for investment trusts; Traded options, there is still a snag; Currencies accounting for movements.

Management: Lessons for companies interested in buying industrial firms in the United States; the new chairman of the NEEB on society and profits. Business features: Tim Congdon, in the second of a series of articles on government borrowing, argues that there has been a gross misallocation of resources.

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## HOME NEWS

## Government move this week in effort to salvage Ulster talks

From Christopher Thomas

The Government expects to meet leaders of Northern Ireland's four main political parties this week in an attempt to salvage its constitutional talks, due to start next Monday at Stormont.

It appears that the Social Democratic and Labour Party will be led by Mr John Hume, the deputy leader, in place of Mr Gerald Fitz, who resigned in protest at the emergence in the party of what he called "extreme republicanism".

Mr Hume, a European MP, said last night that Irish unity was a long-term target, and strongly denied that the party was being taken over by extremists. "I must reject categorically any thought that inside the SDLP there are people who support violence in any shape, form or fashion", he said.

The SDLP, the main Roman Catholic party, had repeatedly its appeal to the Government to allow the issue of Irish unity to be included in the Stormont talks. Otherwise, it is adamant that it will not participate in any sharing of power and the use of proportional representation in elections.

With the Official Unionists, the main "loyalist" group, also refusing to attend, there seems little hope that this attempt to make political progress will succeed. The working paper designed as the basis of the talks is to be debated in the Commons on Thursday.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will refuse to go back on

his insistence that the question of unity must not be introduced into the conference. SDLP leaders say his firm public stance makes it impossible for the party to attend, given the enormous emotional appeal of Irish unity must not be introduced as an essential plank of party policy.

If the conference fails, the Government may ask Parliament to agree to some form of elected body in Ulster, which could be advisory or could be given powers over issues not central to the political dispute, such as agriculture, health and planning.

Mr Hume, who will allow his name to go forward when the party's constituency representatives meet to elect a leader on Wednesday, said yesterday that the Government's working paper was obviously prepared in a hurry. There had not been widespread talks with party leaders, as Mr Atkins claimed.

He questioned whether the Government was serious in its objectives or whether the document was merely intended to silence foreign critics of its inactivity. "No serious thought went into this initiative."

"We are serious about the lives of the people of Northern Ireland and we want dialogue. But we are not going into talks on the terms applied by the Secretary of State, which are hopelessly inadequate and would make the chances of success virtually nil."

All issues should be on the table: the relationships between the two sections of the community in the North; between the North and the South; and between Ireland and Britain; as well as issues like the economy and security.

## Professor defends obscenity law report

By Penny Symon

The report of the Williams committee of inquiry into the obscenity laws, to be published on Wednesday, will recommend far-reaching changes, but it would be wrong to describe it as a permissive, unduly liberal, document, Professor Bernard Williams, its chairman, said yesterday.

The committee was set up in 1977 by Mr Merlyn Rees, the former Home Secretary, to review the laws concerning obscenity, indecency and violence in publications, displays and entertainments, and to review the arrangements for film censorship.

There was criticism then by some MPs of the choice as chairman of Professor Williams, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, and Knightbridge Professor of Philosophy. It is understood that in recommending a new law the committee has taken as its criterion of obscenity that which would give "unreasonable offence to reasonable people".

It also recommends the lifting of restrictions on the written word, and a new category of film censorship to cover hardcore pornographic films and others considered stronger than those at present given X-certificate.

But the report is also expected to say that there should be tight restrictions on the display of sex magazines in newsagents' shops and other public places, heavier penalties for using children in sex photographs and films, and stringent control over pornography and advertising material sent by post.

Professor Williams said yesterday that it was clear that a fundamental rethinking of the obscenity laws had been needed.

"If my impression has been given that the report is permissive and unduly liberal then it is misleading," he said. "It may certainly be more liberal in certain departments than is the present law but it is not in other respects."

"The report shows that the committee has tried to deal with that which is offensive to people, for instance the displays of sex magazines in newsagents' shops for all to see and be offended by. We know this upsets people."

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the anti-pornography campaigner, said yesterday that it sounded as though the committee lacked moral courage.

"But I am not the least bit surprised, it is what I expected from that committee," she said. "I am particularly horrified that it is reported that they could not accept that there was a link between pornography and sex crimes, when we have new and reliable evidence that this was the case."



Mr Benn addressing the anti-fascist demonstrators in Trafalgar Square yesterday.

## Asians join peaceful race protest

By a Staff Reporter

Demonstrators and the police were on their best behaviour when many thousands, including more than 100 coaches, took part in the Asian race protest in Trafalgar Square yesterday.

The march was organised by the Anti-Nazi League, the South-east Regional TUC, the Labour Party and the Indian Workers' Association. According to their estimates some 20,000 people took part. Police put the number at 6,000.

The peaceful scene in Trafalgar Square was in marked contrast to events in Southall on April 23, when clashes between the police and the league demonstrators resulted in many injuries, arrests and the death of Mr Blair Peach, the New Zealand schoolteacher.

The legacy of Southall was reflected in the heavy proportion of Asians in the march. (scarcely any West Indians were in evidence), and in the bitter tone of many Asian speakers.

They saw Conservative policy as a reflection of British racism based on 200 years of exploitation and a desire not only to keep Asians out, but also to keep those here as a meek and submissive labour force.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, a Conservative immigration policy as a piece with cuts in government spending and the closure of steel works. The solidarity of workers and ethnic communities was the only answer.

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## Taxi drivers claim police harassment

Taxi drivers in Liverpool yesterday called for talks with Merseyside police chiefs, complaining of police harassment.

The demand came after the arrest of two drivers late on Saturday night, which led to a number of noisy demonstrations.

Trouble started outside the Royal Court Theatre as a concert given by Paul McCartney's Wings band. A driver was arrested and charged with obstruction and with disorderly behaviour. He was released on bail to appear before the city magistrates on December 16.

A large number of taxis gathered outside the Coppers Hill police station. Another driver was later arrested and taken to the St Anne Street divisional police headquarters. He was charged with obstruction and also given bail.

About two dozen drivers demonstrated outside the police station and then more than a hundred taxis drove round the city centre with their horns blaring. They eventually attempted to blockade the Liverpool entrance to the Queensway Mersey Tunnel.

Finally the drivers blocked the entrance to the L1 Street rail terminal. A number of them were booked, accused of various traffic offences. Hundreds of people had walked home from the nine clubs in the city centre before the taxi drivers' protest returned to normal work at last.

Mr Anthony Varney, branch secretary of the transport union's cab section, said: "Over the past few months have been harassed by police and the arrests brought things to a head."

"Saturday night and Sunday morning is the money-making time for taxi drivers, but it is not matter. We had to begin to speak up. We began asking for an inquiry into the arrests and talks with Merseyside police officials."

About 800 drivers took part in the action, which was not without its relationship with police.

Mr Anderson told a rally of Christian businessmen in Liverpool that it was "vitally important" to those who regard the police as a devilish force to their attainment of social, spiritual and criminal justice. He said that Christ police officers should be "targeted" of ridicule and aggression.

It was also vital to them, he said, to establish a rapport with the community. "How much more important it is for the public to know and understand not only the police do and how and why they do it, but also what of a man is vested with so much power and authority to affect and alter the lives of those in his direct or indirect charge."

Mr Anderson, a Methodist preacher, has been criticised frequently for his outspokenness. Recently he accused of exceeding powers as a chief constable because of his many pronouncements.

He told the rally: "Surely it is better for chief constables publicly explain his personal beliefs, the background against which makes his decisions and values his policies, so that doubt and suspicion are removed and accountability thereby ensured."

"Police are occasion accused of bad conduct inquiry has to be made. I am asking for police to defend themselves against an allegation, especially if it is manifestly unjust, but it is quite another for their virtually resist any expression of the truth upon which judgments could be founded."

being looked after by an aunt. She said before leaving that her son should be out on his first birthday, in February.

The hospital has not yet indicated when Mr Barlow might be allowed to leave. However, Mr Edwards pointed out that Mr Keith, the previous heart transplant patient, who underwent his operation in August, was told that it might be possible for him to leave in November. He returned home in October.

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## Mr Mayhew explains his visit to Russia in 1936

By Stewart Tendler

Professor Anthony Blunt, named by the Prime Minister as the "fourth man" in the Philby affair, issued a statement through his solicitor on Saturday correcting the answers he gave at a press conference last week in which he said he had no further contact with the Russians after 1951.

He said that he did have one further contact with them. The Prime Minister had told the Commons after the press conference that Professor Blunt was in touch with the Russians between 1951 and 1956 to assist Philby.

Professor Blunt was apparently confused by the questions, and after he knew of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's statement he was not sure how best to correct the reply.

The statement was carried in The Observer, which also reported that a former Labour minister "was recently asked about an Intourist visit he paid to Russia in his youth". Yesterday Mr Christopher Mayhew, the former Labour minister, issued the following statement to The Times: "I told Mr Andrew Boyle (author of The Climate of Treason) and he duly reported in his book that I made an Intourist trip to Russia in 1936 and Mr Blunt was in the same boat. I described the visit in my book, Party Games; some years ago M15 asked me about my fellow passengers and I gladly gave them what help I could. They

told me what I had forgotten, that I had made a stirring anti-Stalinist speech in a debate on the voyage home."

The 15-day trip cost £15 and Professor Blunt mentioned it at his press conference last week. At the time Mr Mayhew was at Oxford. He was asked about the trip by M15 about five or six years ago.

£100,000 fire damage  
A fire early yesterday caused damage estimated at about £100,000 to Cheshire County Council's Small Oaks Day Nursery, at Cheviot Square, Winstanley. It appeared to have started in a store room.

Chip pan fire kills boy  
John Vardy, aged five, died after a fire on Saturday night caused by a burning chip pan at his home in Storegate near Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear. A babysitter was upstairs at the time.



This photograph of Professor Anthony Blunt was taken 40 years ago when he was Second Lieutenant A. F. Blunt at Minley Manor, Camberley. He was a member of the second war intelligence course held between October and November, 1939. From Camberley he went to France and then to M15.

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## Inquiry into waste tipping at quarry will test Act

By Our Planning Reporter

A public inquiry will be resumed today into the refusal of Devon County Council to permit further tipping of industrial waste into Higher Killa Quarry, Bampton.

The case is the first of its kind since the Control of Pollution Act, 1974, came into force. That Act requires local authorities not to reject applications for waste disposal licences unless they are satisfied that there is a risk of water pollution or a danger to public health.

Haul-Waste Ltd, a subsidiary of English China Clays, has applied for a licence to tip seven million gallons of liquid waste in the quarry, which is a year into the quarry, which is formed of porous limestone and is on a hill.

The county engineer has said there has been a substantial leak in the past 10 years. It is one of 33 tips in Britain officially classified as highly dangerous.

Checks at the mineshaft in Gwyddr Fawr, Gwynedd, have now proved that water has leaked into the drums and that small quantities could have seeped into the earth.

The mine is three miles from the quarry. The Welsh Water Authority and Forestry Commission say water supplies are safe.

Disposal halted: The Forestry Commission has halted the disposal of supposedly inert waste at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, and has told doctors that he is feeling well.

Mr John Edwards, an official at the hospital, said yesterday that Mr Barlow had been allowed up for breakfast and had been visited for 20 minutes by his brother, Christopher.

They said that Mr Barlow had said he could not believe

that this was happening to him," Mr Edwards said. "He had seen himself on television, and it all seemed like another world. Christopher Barlow had joked that his brother was famous - but what a way to do it!"

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## Crashed Jaguar pilot 'may be in wreckage'

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Andrew Barlow, aged 29, British, seven years, was continuing yesterday to make satisfactory progress at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, and has told doctors that he is feeling well.

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## 'New heart' man gets up for breakfast

By a Staff Reporter

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## Weather forecast and recordings

By a Staff Reporter

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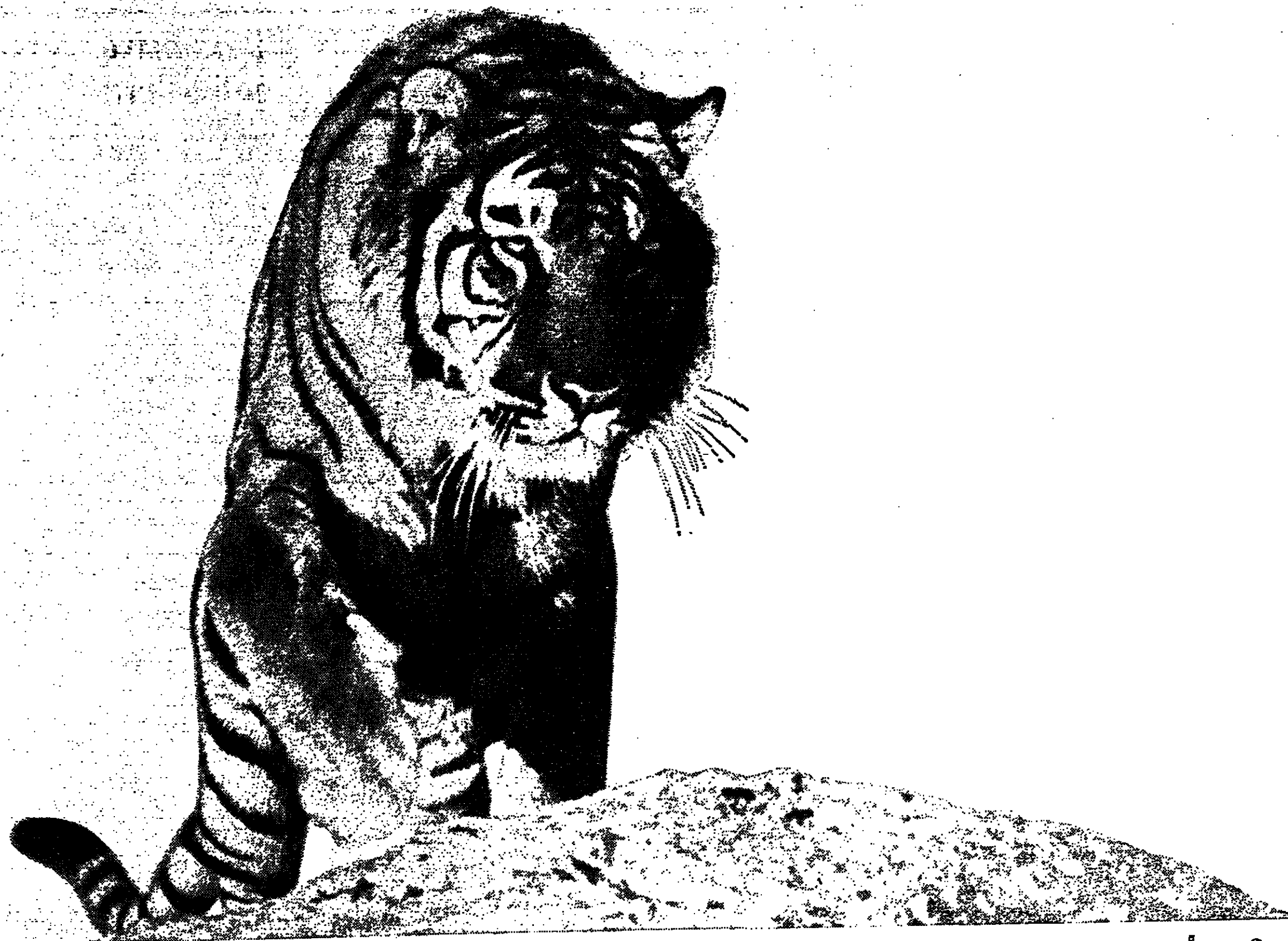
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# This old cat has learnt some new tricks.

Esso are pulling out all the stops to find new sources of oil and gas.

We've built artificial islands to drill off shore in the Arctic.

We've had to invest in an 800-mile pipeline across Alaska to an ice-free port.

We've had to build stronger, taller rigs to work in deeper water in the North Sea.

Esso went into the coal business more than a decade ago, and since then we have been developing new technologies for converting coal into liquid fuels.

We have developed an advanced catalytic process for converting coal into synthetic gas.

We have intensified our programme for extracting oil from tar sands, the technology for which we developed in the Fifties.

Ten years ago we went into the nuclear energy business.

We pioneered laser techniques for enriching uranium.

In solar energy we are leaders in the area of photovoltaics, important for communications in the Third World, in navigation and in signalling.

Given time we're optimistic about our ability to develop new technologies to help solve the world's energy problems.

And do you know what encourages us most about putting our cat through the hoop and teaching it new tricks?

Its uncanny knack of always landing on its feet.



The world's leading energy company.



## HOME NEWS

# Cost of the third London airport could rise to £2,000m, local authorities tell study group

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Public and private capital expenditure on a third London airport could go as high as £2,000m, local authorities have warned the Study Group on South East Airports (SCSEA), one of the main bodies advising the Government on a choice of sites.

In its report to the Secretary of State for Trade the study group makes no recommendation as to the most suitable of the seven sites (Hoggeston, Yardley Chase, Langley, Stansted, Willingale and two sites at Maplin), but assesses each one from the point of view of its effect on the environment, air traffic control, defence establishments and various other aspects.

The report says that Yardley Chase is the most favourable site as regards air traffic control, as it will cause the least interference with operations at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Willingale will provide the least flexibility in handling traffic. Only Maplin would allow Luton airport to continue to operate fully, but an airport there would lead to the closure of Southend airport.

The impact of aircraft noise would be smallest at the two Maplin sites. Virtually nobody would be affected. On the other hand, all the inland sites would impede the use of Luton and would therefore involve a considerable noise disturbance in that area.

The report makes the point that all the inland sites are situated in rural areas, where

the disturbance caused by aircraft noise may be more acutely felt because it would be against a background of very low ambient noise.

Apart from Maplin sands, Yardley Chase and Hoggeston are the least populated sites. The number of dwellings that would have to be destroyed at the inland sites range from 25 at Yardley Chase to 200 at Langley. In addition to 170 dwellings at Stansted, there are 350 caravans on the site.

The group says there is little difference between the agricultural quality of the land at the inland sites which would be required for the airport, except at Hoggeston and Yardley Chase, where the Ministry of Agriculture does not classify the land as of high value.

Maplin (Foulness) would necessitate the use of land of high agricultural value, but Maplin (Sands) would be built on land reclaimed from the sea, and would avoid taking agricultural land at all.

Assessing the effects of airport-related developments, the group forecasts the number of dwellings required to accommodate the airport work force when it is operating at a rate of 25 million passengers a year as follows: Hoggeston 10,000, Yardley Chase 12,500, Langley 19,200, Stansted 15,600, Willingale 15,500, Maplin 10,000.

The report says: "The urban development which would be required to support the work force and related activities could be more readily accommodated near Hoggeston, Yardley Chase and Maplin, all of which are located in growth

areas, than Langley, Stansted and Willingale where the long-term policy is to support agriculture and restrict large-scale urban growth."

An airport at Yardley Chase or Maplin will require the construction of 65 kilometres of motorway, and at Hoggeston 42 kilometres. Comparatively short lengths of new road will be required to link Langley, Stansted and Willingale to the M11.

From the standpoint of defence, Yardley Chase, Willingale and Maplin would have particularly significant effects, mainly because of the need to relocate important establishments at Alconbury, Upper Heyford and Bedford (in the case of Yardley and Willingale) and Shoeburyness (in the case of Maplin).

"There is little chance of achieving this without impairing our defence capability," the defence costs of each site are given as: Hoggeston £220m, Yardley Chase £475m, Willingale £260m, Maplin (Foulness) £260m, Maplin (Sands) £240m.

Airport construction costs are estimated as: Hoggeston £390m (opening) £475m (completion), Yardley Chase £360m and £495m, Langley £370m and £510m, Stansted £285m and £515m, Willingale £350m and £490m, Maplin (Foulness) £350m and £475m, Maplin (Sands) £350m and £485m.

## Head teachers threaten to ban snack meals

By Our Education Correspondent

Head teachers will ban pupils from eating sandwiches and other snacks brought from home unless proper facilities are provided in schools, the National Association of Head Teachers says in a statement today on the Government's Education Bill.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the union which represents two thirds of the head teachers in England and Wales, said: "Heads who are concerned with the social training of their pupils will not stand idly by and see their schools turned into crumby 'snackeries'."

The Government was proposing in its Education Bill to give local authorities freedom to opt out of providing proper meals for pupils, but to compel them to allow pupils to eat snacks in schools, he said. However, it had given no thought to the vast range of problems that would arise.

Pupils would need to be supervised and provided with a place to eat. Someone would have to clean up after the

meals. Schools must be provided with the manpower and resources needed, otherwise heads would not cooperate with the Government's plans for changes in school meal arrangements.

Turning to the Government's proposals to help pay for bright children from poor homes to attend independent schools, Mr Hart said that his members deplored the scheme. The ESSE the Government proposed to spend on its assisted places scheme was equivalent to the total education expenditure of a local authority the size of Salop or Kirkcaldy, or the London boroughs of Harrow and Merton combined.

The Government's suggestion that "only 1 or 2 per cent of pupils would be switched from state schools to the independent sector was a distortion of the true picture. Such a transfer would actually represent 20 per cent of the brightest children (that is of the top 10 per cent of the ability range) in the state system. That would have a profoundly adverse effect on the academic attainment of state schools, he said.



Mark Padgett, aged 12, waiting to change into uniform at the Wembley Arena for the second British Marching Band Championships. A member of the Brighouse Royal British Legion Drum and Trumpet Corps, he was one of 1,000 musicians from 24 youth bands.

## Plans for metric milk bottles abandoned

By Hugh Clayton

The Government has abandoned plans to make some milk bottles metric in the face of strong opposition from dairymen. They reserved what appeared to be an attempt to reopen a bitterly contested campaign to measure milk and beer in metric units.

Although milk is bought from farms in litres and beer is sold in shops in fractions of a litre, ministers and the EEC Commission have accepted that British buyers will not accept a metric measure of milk on the doorstep or of beer across the bar.

The Dairy Trade Federation therefore reacted sharply to a suggestion from the Department of Trade that the minority of milk sold in shops should be packed in half-litres instead of pints.

While the doorstep milk bottle has been allowed to remain pint-size, EEC rules for liquid containers will require Britain to allow milk to be sold in half and quarter-litres from New Year's Day.

The Department of Trade wanted to avoid confusion in

which some shop milk might be packed in half-litres (500ml) and some in pints (568ml) at slightly different prices.

The federation told the Government that a change to metric milk would cut sales in shops by a tenth. That was because people bought milk by the bottle or in cartons. If the amount in the bottle was reduced slightly, families would still buy the same number of bottles or cartons, and adjust to consuming slightly less milk.

John Owens, Director-General of the federation, said: "We have won the battle to keep the pint. There is still much to be done to ensure that any legislation of metric sizes for milk will not be against the interests of the dairy industry."

The only companies likely to want to sell milk in half-litres next year are those in France which want to dispose of dairy surplus by selling milk to British supermarkets. They are prevented from doing so by British health rules which are being contested by EEC authorities.

## VD at record level last year

Cases of venereal disease in the United Kingdom rose to a record level of 44,539 last year, an increase of more than 7,000 on the year before.

Figures from the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre, published in the *British Medical Journal*, show increases in almost all forms of venereal disease.

## Caring agencies concerned over increase in elderly

From Arthur Osman  
Leicester

Concern over the "dramatic" increase in the elderly population expected in the next 10 years in Leicestershire and the rest of Britain is expressed in a report by officers and doctors of the county council.

The increase "will pose, and to a great extent is already posing, significant and complex problems for the caring agencies," the report says. It will be discussed by the county council on Wednesday.

Mr T. S. Smith, deputy director of social services and chairman of the group, said yesterday: "The full extent of the situation will be with us in about five years, like the rest of average ageing in Britain."

"But on the cost front, in particular at retirement resorts, there are already severe problems."

"If the challenge is to be met successfully it will be necessary to effect a shift in emphasis within the current problems of caring." The cost of continuing services were prohibitive and did not reflect accurately the needs of aged and frail people.

Future developments, the group said, should be based on the allocation of national and local resources to reflect the changing structure of the population, with a shift in the balance of service towards home

## Outrageous prices for hotel coffee, AA says

Guests in some British hotels are being charged double for their newspapers, "outrageous prices" for coffees and afternoon teas, and are facing mark-ups of more than 100 per cent on their telephone charges.

According to an Automobile Association survey.

Mr Ian Tyers, the AA's hotel services manager, says: "There must be serious doubts whether these establishments want to provide value for money."

Mr Tyers, writing in the AA's hotels and restaurants guide published today, also complains of "a number of giggling practices" in some restaurants. Citing examples were exorbitant cover charges and the price of vegetables.

## £10,000 to rid town of 'mumblers'

By a Staff Reporter

Are you proud to live in Wolverhampton? Or do you, when asked, where you come from, mumble something under your breath and try to change the subject?

These are the troubling questions that Wolverhampton are being asked by their borough council in its magazine, distributed to every household in the town. The council has embarked on a campaign to improve the town's image and is appealing to its citizens to make people proud of living there.

It was the idea of Mr John Bird, leader of the council, who says: "People have the impression that Wolverhampton is a dirty place in industrial decline, with a serious image

problem."

"Wolverhampton is suffering from an identity crisis," he says. "After years of years of relative prosperity and stability the past decade has seen a steady decline in job opportunities and a corresponding loss of the town's self-confidence."

Figures are not much higher than the national average and are certainly less than many comparable towns.

Mr Bird also thinks that Mr Birch Powell, who made the MP for Wolverhampton a "Spitfire" in the 1974 election, is responsible for some of the worst damage.

That man did Wolverhampton

## A Princess ditches the mayor for last time

From Tim Jones  
Cardiff

As mayoral limousines HBI has been better days. T Austin Princess which flies a Merthyr Tydfil coat of arms keeps breaking down.

The steep valley road appears to have defeated the sleek, black office chariot. It has taken dignitaries to functions for 17 years.

Finding a successor is causing a dispute between the ruling Labour members on a council and their Plaid Cym opponents.

Judgment day came for HBI in high summer when, with mighty hiss of steam, it grew to an undignified halt a few miles from the town hall.

Councillor David James, Mayor, said: "My wife and I in our mayoral chains, in the car parked on the Hes of the Valleys road with tourists from London tried to get out for the car."

On two other occasions a year we have failed to reach our destination. Once we did not get back. It is time we rid of that image for good. Tomorrow night the council will consider a recommendation to replace it with £16,000 Ford Grosvenor. Pl members want a mini-bus.

They claim that to buy a Ford Grosvenor is "a crazy bribe" at a time of severe government economies.

But Councillor Gerry Donovan, the Labour leader believes that a town's status is reflected in its transport. In a slightly disarming phrase he said: "One of the most important things a mayor has to do is to sell Merthyr. You have to put on a show which you can sell in the city. This is a parcel of society in which we live."

But next year's mayor, Councillor Gareth Foster, believes that to be more functional and efficient housekeeping at times, when taxpayers are being asked to contribute to the town's maintenance will be duty bound in mind-bus.

## Freedom of information Act urged

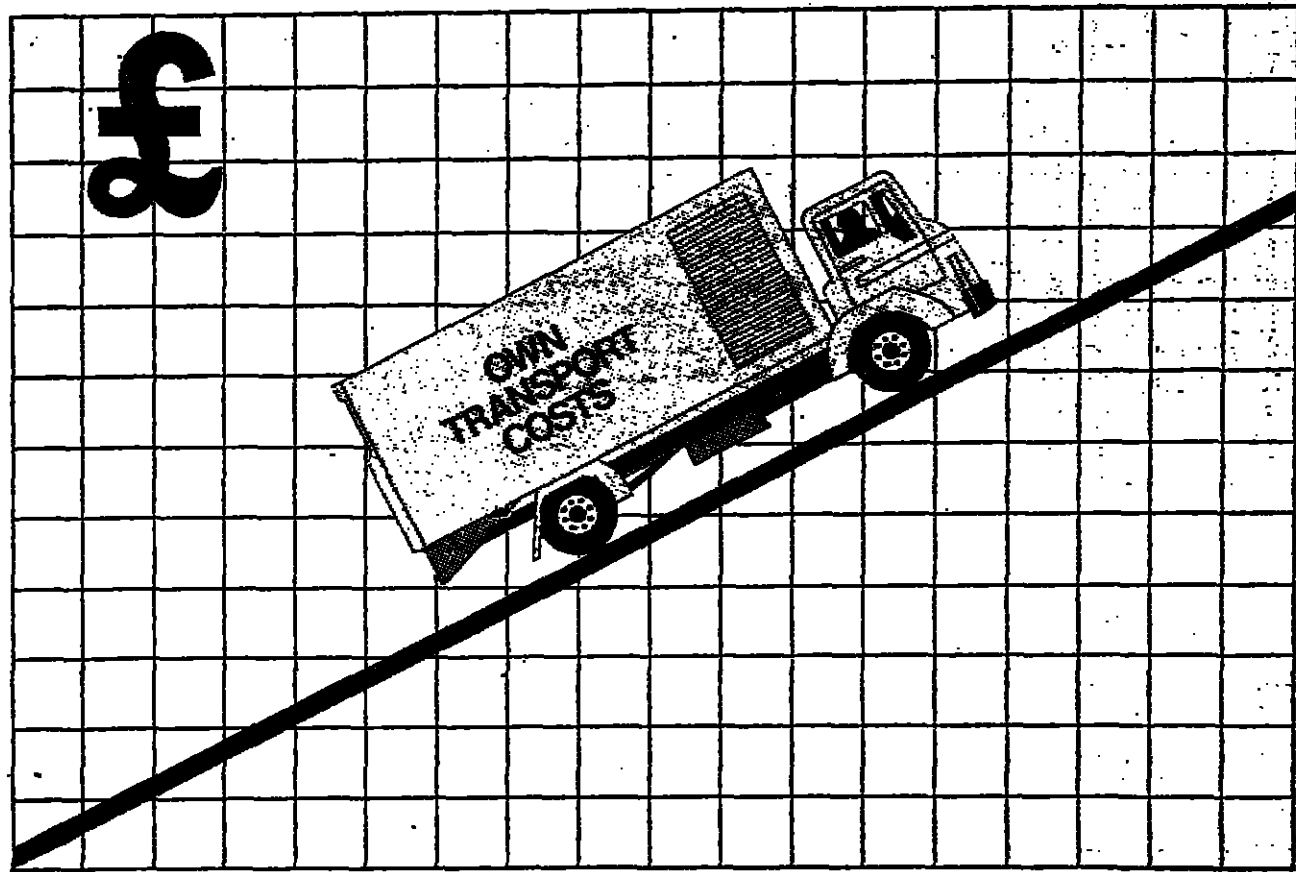
By Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Mr Michael Shanks, chairman of the National Consumer Council, has called on the Government to follow up its abandonment of the Protection of Official Information Bill by introducing instead a Freedom of Information Act.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Institute of Public Relations at Eastbourne on Saturday, Mr Shanks said that despite moves toward "open government" there was still no statutory right of access to official information in Britain.

"The principle remains that the Government will release only such information as it thinks fit."

Mr Shanks said that official information the public should have included comparative vehicle safety data for motorists, traffic statistics for environmental groups opposing motorway schemes, and departmental rulebooks for claimants of welfare benefits.



# There has to be a better way.

Fleet delivery costs are rising faster than ever. Fuel, maintenance, depreciation, tax, insurance, replacement, . . . it's really an uphill struggle just to keep a truck. And you certainly can't afford to misuse it by carrying only a couple of packages at a time. If you do, the costs become intolerable. Isn't it time you found a better way?

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A Rail Express Parcels Service






# Rover. In great shape for the 80's.

\*Complete Government Fuel Consumption Figures, Rover 5-speed manual 2300 urban motoring 17.5 mpg (16.1 litres/100 km), constant 36 mph (90 km/h) 36.8 mpg (7.7 litres/100 km), constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 31.0 mpg (9.1 litres/100 km), 2000 urban motoring 18.5 mpg (15.3 litres/100 km), constant 30 mph (90 km/h) 38.2 mpg (7.4 litres/100 km), constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 30.2 mpg (9.4 litres/100 km), 5300 urban motoring 16.2 mpg (17.4 litres/100 km), constant 56 mph (90 km/h) 36.5 mpg (7.9 litres/100 km), constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 27.9 mpg (9.1 litres/100 km), 5-speed gearbox optional on the 2300. Car shows features of optional alloy wheels.

**S.**

The owner of the vehicle has the details of the above named person.  
Rover Information Services Dept. New Road  
Sunderland SR6 9DD

TITLE NO-AD STREET TOWN COUNTY POSTCODE

 **Rover**  
Elgar Road, Coventry CV4 7JF  
**2500-2600**  
**2600**  
**188**



## WEST EUROPE

## Britain does about-turn on EEC farm policy and opposes cuts in subsidy to milk producers

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Nov 25

Despite its professed desire to reduce the cost of the EEC's wasteful agricultural policy, Britain has thrown in its lot with a majority of other member states in rejecting cuts proposed by the European Parliament in the subsidies paid to milk producers. The dairy sector consumes about 30 per cent of the entire EEC budget.

Britain, represented by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary at the Treasury, could have joined Holland and Italy to form a blocking minority with enough votes to prevent the EEC's budget ministers from throwing out the Parliament's proposal late last Friday night.

Mr Lawson could also have sided with Italy to prevent a cut in the Parliament's proposed appropriation of £780m for development of the Community's poorer regions next year. In the event, however, the regional fund of £660m, only 7 per cent up on this year.

Britain is one of the biggest beneficiaries of regional expenditure, receiving 27 per cent of the total. One reason why Britain makes such a big net contribution to the EEC budget is because regional and industrial investment forms such a small proportion of EEC expenditure, 75 per cent of which is devoted to agriculture.

Britain's apparently perverse behaviour on Friday night was openly admitted to have been motivated mainly by a desire to avoid antagonizing the French only days before the

crucial summit meeting in Dublin on November 29 and 30. Mrs Thatcher is hoping to win France's support there for measures that would substantially reduce Britain's big budget deficit.

The French have a horror of the European Parliament which they see as a dangerously ambitious body bent on wresting power from the Council of Ministers and national parliaments, particularly in the domain of budgetary control.

Mr Lawson said after the meeting that to have supported the Parliament in its milk proposal would have "called in question the constitutional balance between the institutions within the EEC".

The Parliament's proposed £180m cut in milk subsidies was largely symbolic. The money would have been held in reserve for possible release later to finance the disposal of surplus dairy produce.

Its significance was that previous parliaments have always accepted that the level of agricultural spending is predetermined by the decisions taken by agriculture ministers at the annual spring price review, and they have never before attempted to exert any control over it.

Evidently aware of the contradiction in the British position, Mr Lawson suggested that while rejecting the Parliament's proposal the Council of Ministers should issue a statement making clear that their action in no way implied opposition to the principle of agricultural reform.

Apparently angered by what

they regarded as British pusillanimity, the Dutch and the Italians refused to support such a statement. As a result, it could not be issued as a declaration by the Council of Ministers, and was merely written into the minutes as the view of seven out of nine member states.

The statement noted "with sympathy and understanding" the Parliament's preoccupation with the financial consequences of persistent agricultural surpluses. It also called for early action by member states "to secure a better balance within the agricultural section of the budget and within the budget as a whole".

In separate decisions, the budget ministers added some £30m to social spending, mainly on creating jobs for women, school leavers, the handicapped and agricultural and textile workers, and a further token sum of just under £1m to expenditure on joint EEC research projects and hydrocarbon exploration.

All these offers fell far short of the Parliament's demands. As amended by the budget ministers, the draft budget for 1980 now stands at a little above £10,800m, compared with nearly £11,700m asked for by the Parliament.

There is likely to be a stormy debate when the Parliament meets in Strasbourg in the middle of next month to adopt the budget in its final form. Although there is now little chance that the Parliament can do to change individual items of expenditure, it does have the legal power to reject the entire draft.

## Gromyko 'threat' discounted by Bonn

Hamburg, Nov 25.—Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said today that he expected further negotiations between Nato and the Soviet Union even if the Western alliance decided to deploy medium range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Speaking at a press conference, he discounted hints by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, that Moscow would refuse to enter into negotiations if Nato decided to deploy 572 cruise and Pershing II missiles. "I cannot determine that Mr Gromyko has delivered threats", he said.

Mr Gromyko said on Friday in Bonn that a decision by the alliance to deploy the new missiles would "take away the basis for negotiations" on the subject.

Nato defence and foreign ministers will decide next month in Brussels whether to proceed with plans to build and deploy the missiles. The decision is one of the most controversial Nato has faced because of widespread opposition to the weapons in Western Europe.

Herr Schmidt noted that the final communiqué issued after Mr Gromyko's departure yesterday contained no threats against the alliance.

The West German Chancellor also noted that his talks with Mr Gromyko were conducted in a good atmosphere and that he had accepted an invitation to visit Moscow early next year.

Despite opposition within his Social Democratic Party, Herr Schmidt supports deployment of the missiles to offset Soviet superiority in medium range missiles. He has proposed, however, that Nato offer to negotiate a reduction in medium range systems as soon as the decision on their deployment has been made.

His views are close to those of the United States but at odds with many European politicians, particularly in Holland, who fear the missiles will provoke a new arms race and cold war. Soviet warnings: A Soviet commentator said today that American strategists were striving for nuclear superiority over the Soviet Union and warned the West that Moscow would retaliate against any attempts to show new missiles in Western Europe.

The warning was given in the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda*, commenting on visits to Italy and West Germany by senior Soviet officials.

Nato members had decided on a false course: first to approve the new missiles and then to begin disarmament talks from a position of strength, *AP* and *Kurier*.

Leading article, page 13

## OVERSEAS



President Nyerere presides at the Dar es Salaam meeting between Mr Nkomo (left) and Mr Mugabe (second right) of the Patriotic Front and leaders of the front line states.

## Ayatollah tolerating Communists unless they become too popular

From Robert Fisk, Tehran, Nov 25

Mr Nouraddin Kianouri's office walls must be the only ones in Tehran without a picture of Ayatollah Khomeini. There is a copper-plated portrait of Lenin above the stairs but the secretary general of the Iranian Tudeh Communist Party asked why the Ayatollah was not being stashed down upon his desk.

"The cult of personality does not exist here in Iran", he says. "We are not like the English, who have a picture of the Queen hanging in every room."

Mr Kianouri laughs rather too much at his joke, perhaps aware that the parallel is somewhat inexact. He is a precise, occasionally humorous man whose head is large, eyes are bushy and grey moustache make him look like a character from a Simenon novel.

But the political language of this former professor of architecture (Tehran University and

the East Berlin Academy of Architecture) has more in common with *Pravda* than with *Maigret*.

Tudeh is involved in "the radical struggle against imperialism" and "the struggle for the reorganization of social life, especially for the oppressed strata of society". The party wants a "popular democracy" not the bourgeois democracy of the West. And in so far as it is possible, Tudeh—Iran's oldest political party—stands for the same things as Ayatollah Khomeini.

That, at least, is the theory. But Mr Kianouri holds to it bravely. He says Tudeh is "reorganizing" and cannot give a figure for party membership, save to point out that his first candidate in the elections for the Iranian Constituent Assembly picked up 50,000 votes.

But Tudeh probably has only 35,000 card-carrying adherents and even, that first candidate, Mr Ehsan Tabari, one of the

party founders—failed to gain a seat in the Assembly.

The leftist *Bedayeen*, which played a more active role in the days before the revolution, has many thousands more supporters, and also adopts a more unaligned approach to domestic and foreign policy. For Tudeh's view, only the new Iran are almost exactly the same as those of the Soviet Union's publicly expressed policy, and just now the Ayatollah is very much in favour.

"We have criticized the establishment," Mr Kianouri says. "We have made criticisms over the position of liberty in the state and about the rights of women. We have criticized Islamic fanaticism. We are against the non-progressive ideas of the conservative elements. But for the positive side of Ayatollah Khomeini is so important that the so-called negative side means nothing. We think he is an obstacle to fanaticism: he is more progressive than other elements."

## West Bank settlers rebuffed

Tel Aviv, Nov 25

Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, today backed at asking the Cabinet to issue a declaration calculated to assure Jewish settlers in the West Bank that they would not face the fate of 110 inhabitants of Elon Mor whose eviction has been ordered by the Supreme Court.

Rabbis and politicians close to the militant group Gush Emunim had recommended various formulas to induce settlers to evacuate Elon Mor without resistance by January 3, the deadline set for the transfer to a new site five miles away.

An official on Mr Begin's staff said the Prime Minister considered the Attorney General and Cabinet colleagues but it had been unable to come up with a formula which would be meaningful without changing the legal or political status of the territories or violating the framework of the peace treaty concluded with Egypt at Camp David last year. Accordingly, it did not submit any proposal to the Cabinet today.

In a related development, the Cabinet endorsed its decision a fortnight ago to establish new Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The minister accepted an appeal by Y. Tamar, the Minister of Justice, that each project should require individual approval by a ministerial committee.

It was also agreed that before paramilitary settlements are transformed into civilian communities, the Attorney General should be asked to certify that the land they occupy is a privately owned.

As the ministers discuss these issues, hundreds of "Peace Now" activists who have camped all night outside the Prime Minister's office chant slogans warning the Government against surrendering to extremists.

Another chapter in the Israel occupation of Sinai closed today with the evacuation of the 400 soldiers on the Gulf of Suez. The Israelis lowered their flag without pomp and the Egyptians raised theirs with fanfare. Israel's last left by sea.

Egypt has agreed to sell Israel new military hardware annually to make up for the loss of the fields, but the price will be higher than Opec rates.

## Marchers in Paris back abortion law

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Nov 25

More than 50,000 people marched through the streets of Paris yesterday in a huge demonstration in favour of free and legal abortion. Backed by 22 different organizations—for the most part from trade unions and the political Left—the demonstration surprised even the organizers by its size.

The numbers taking part, coupled with the fact that for the first time men took part in a march in France in favour of abortion, shows the public pressure on members of the National Assembly over the next two days when they debate whether to make legal abortion a permanent feature of the French Constitution.

Abortion was made legal for a five-year trial period which expires at the end of this year, and the Assembly is now being asked to back the Government proposal to make the law permanent.

When the temporary law was passed, Mme Simone Veil, then the Minister of Health, was able to rely on the Government parties; indeed, most of the 284 votes in support came from the left wing, while most of the 189 votes against were cast by Government party members.

Since then, the opponents of the "Veil law", as it is known, have continued to fight abortion. The Roman Catholic Church maintains that it is an act of death while the Gaullists are largely opposed to the idea. Communists and Socialists will vote to pass the law at the end of the debate, but the Government coalition parties are leaving it to the conscience of their members.

The Government's dilemma is that France, like most of Western Europe, is now facing a shrinking birthrate, which is causing concern among economic planners. It is Government policy to encourage "three-child families" and to stop the trend for people to have only one or two.

## Chirac-Mitterrand meeting played down by socialists

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Nov 25

The national secretariat of the French Socialist Party has issued a strong statement aimed at squashing rumours that the party is seeking an alliance with the Gaullists. The rumour was given substance last week when it was found that M Jacques Chirac, the Socialist leader, had been to see M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader.

According to the statement, this meeting was simply within the framework of the annual meeting of the Gaullists, which was taking place this year at the Paris City Hall. The Socialist mayor of Chateau-Chinon (M Mitterrand) had simply called on the Gaullist mayor of Paris (M Chirac) to discuss a Socialist mayor's reception in the City Hall, the statement said.

The statement added that the Socialist Party remained ready to fight against the reactionary power embodied by the majority groups.

Stories of the new friendship between the two parties have been circulating in French political circles for some weeks now. The strong statement from the Socialist Party indicates that this is more a rumour in line with Gaullist wishful thinking than a genuine attempt by the two parties to get together.

"To imagine that there could be a reconciliation between the Socialists, who condemn the policy of the Government and refuse to vote for its budget, and the Gaullists, whose votes at the Assembly constantly reaffirm the support it gives to the President of the Republic, is a pure fantasy."

The statement added that the Socialist Party remained ready to fight against the reactionary power embodied by the majority groups.

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## Warning against subversion at Portuguese polls

From Jose Shercliffe, Lisbon, Nov 25

President Ramalho Eanes warned the political parties against any attempt to manipulate the electorate in a speech today, one week before the elections to the Portuguese National Assembly.

Speaking at Estremoz in the heart of the Communist-dominated Alentejo province, he reminded his audience that this was the anniversary of the Army victory over an attempted ultra-left-wing coup in 1975.

General Eanes assured the nation that the armed forces stood for law and order and for protection against subversion.

## 20,000 in Dutch protest

About 20,000 people demonstrated in Utrecht yesterday against Nato plans to introduce long range theatre nuclear missiles. The demonstration was part of a series of protests against the Soviet deployment of the Backfire super-sonic bomber and the SS 20 missiles.

The demonstration was organized by leading peace movements in the Netherlands, including the Inter-Church Peace Council, and the left-wing opposition parties. Speakers included Mr Joop den Uyl, the Socialist opposition leader and Professor Berkhoff, chairman of the Dutch Council of Churches.

Mr Den Uyl told the mostly young demonstrators that every chance to ban nuclear weapons must be seized. "Such a chance is now available," he said, referring to the Labour Party's insistence that Nato should first open negotiations with the Soviet Union before modernizing its nuclear armory.

## Clashes in Nice newspaper strike

From Ian Murray, Paris, Nov 25

An attempt to produce a strike-breaking newspaper in Nice has run into violent opposition from the unions and the Communist Party. A policeman and a Communist were injured last night in incidents connected with the dispute.

The strike began on November 12 when the union refused permission for its members to punch their personal code numbers onto the screen of their new computer setting equipment when they started work.

The unions, claiming this was a demand that negotiators on 17 separate claims should start within three days of their resumption of work.

The management have asked for a two-month truce before restarting negotiations.

Yesterday plans went ahead for printing a new daily paper offering local news and advertising space for the region. Called *L'Action Nice*, *Cité d'Azur*, it is based on an existing monthly in which the city's paper, *Le Journal Méditerranée*, has a strong interest. The new paper had an initial print of 50,000 copies but it will only appear while *Nice-Matin* is off the air.

Last night a van carrying copies of the paper was chased by pickets and took refuge in the courtyard of the Nice city hall. In the scuffles a policeman was injured.

Meanwhile, the Lyons-based press group, which produces 10 regional papers including *Le Dauphiné Libéré* and *Le Progrès*, is still shut by a strike of its 3,000 employees, including journalists, who are demanding a guarantee of employment. On Thursday, Paris will see the launch of the daily paper *Le Quotidien de Paris*, which closed in June 1978 after four loss-making years.

## US force in Iran as 'last resort'

Continued from page 1

to Tehran with the encouragement of the Iranian Foreign Ministry. But he seemed fully unprepared for the complexities of Iranian politics and spent part of Saturday sadly pacing the lobby of the international waiting for the American call to the embassy that never came. He talked to Mr Sami Sedki, who suggested he might speak to the hostesses but when he left for Paris this morning he said he had no idea what to do.

US welcomes UN action. If a policy shift, the United States now appears to be in a debate in the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Iran. David Gross writes from Washington. The Administration hopes that the Council will formally condemn the seizure of the embassy and call for the release of the hostages.

But at the same time the move to provide an international forum for Iranian leaders to air some of their grievances against the United States and the regime of the Shah. This would go some way towards meeting Iranian demands for a public trial of the Shah and condemnation of American support for him.

President Carter met his top military advisers yesterday at Camp David in the hills of Maryland where he was spending the Thanksgiving holiday period.

Well-informed sources said that Mr Harold Brown, the Defence Secretary and the head of the armed forces, had reviewed the various military options open to the Administration. It is clear that force is still a last resort and would be used only if there was no hope of rescuing the remaining 49 hostages alive.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, officials here believe that a solution to the crisis is unlikely before a number of things have happened. The most important of these is the departure of the Shah from the New York hospital where he has been undergoing treatment for gallstones and cancer. The removal of a final gallstone is planned for this week and, if that goes well, he could presumably return to his exile in Mexico soon thereafter.

## Qom holy man says Shah's extradition not essential

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Nov 25

One of Iran's most prominent religious leaders indicated that several leading ayatollahs disagree with Ayatollah Khomeini about the need for the revolution, and said in an interview published here today by the respected independent Madrid daily *El País*, that the extradition of the Shah "is not such an essential matter".

Ayatollah Sayed Kazem Chahardol, the spiritual leader of the holy city of Qom before the return of Ayatollah Khomeini from exile, added: "If I had been in Khomeini's place, the occupation of the American Embassy in Tehran would have been necessary."

In the interview, conducted in Qom, he said: "The occupation of the embassy was carried out in the name of the revolution, not in the name of the laws of Islam. These things happen in the name of the revolution. A bargain can be struck if the United States acts reasonably. The Shia holy man repudiated the executions ordered by the revolutionary tribunals after the capture of the Shah's family. 'May it be God's will that those tribunals function no more.'"

He added: "My silence is due to the fact that I think this is a very delicate moment for Iran. If I say what I think, I may not be able to give my opinion about what is going on, but I will not give it. I repeat: I would cause problems. A number of us ayatollahs are in the same position. We have hoped that the Shah would not be sent to Iran. But now we have no choice. I don't think the United States will attack," he said.

With regard to the occupation of the embassy, he said: "There are people who have looked at the situation and have understood it. These are the same people who have urged the Shah to leave. But I don't think it's such an essential matter."

## Minister in hospital

Paris, Nov 25.—M Jean Mitterrand, the new French Minister of Labour and Social Security, was taken to hospital in Paris this afternoon. He was brought into the Government at the beginning of this month after the suicide of M Robert Boulin.

## Passion play still rouses protests despite changes

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn, Nov 25

The text of the Oberammergau Passion Play, which portrays the Jews as responsible for the death of Christ, has been altered to remove its more anti-semitic passages, according to Herr Ernst Zwack, the Bonn, Nov 15.

However, the local rabbi and villagers who oppose the text said the changes were insufficient and the play's some remains anti-semitic.

Pressure to change the 120-year-old text has been mounting for years, but particularly since the Second Vatican Council formally exonerated the Jews from collective guilt for Christ's death.

An attempt to replace the text with an older, eighteenth-

century version, which corresponds more closely to modern attitudes, was defeated by the villagers in a referendum last year. Efforts then started to improve the present text.

Phrases such as "murdering race" and "cursed Pharisaees" have been deleted, scenes have been cut or toned down, and groups opposing the execution of Christ have been introduced into the mob.

In particular, a passage has been inserted in the prologue saying: "It is for every of us to seek guilt in others, each one should look for the guilt in himself."

Rabbi Hans Grünwald, of the Munich Jewish community, said the altered text was "better but not enough. The whole tenor of the play remains the same."

ing monthly in which the city's paper, *Le Journal Méditerranée*, has a strong interest. The new paper had an initial print of 50,000 copies but it will only appear while *Nice-Matin* is off the air.

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## Negev Beduin fight to keep land

From Christopher Walker, Tel Mahaba, Nov 25

As an indirect result of the peace treaty with Egypt, the Israeli Government is now facing a bitter dispute with the scattered population of 40,000 Beduin living in the inhospitable Negev Desert.

Because of the Camp David agreement, the Beduin in the Sinai are to be replaced by a new series of military outposts in the Negev. An airfield to be built at Tel Mahaba will be used to store Israeli arms, and an estimated 9,000 Beduin will be moved to the new outposts.

Yesterday some 300 leaders of the affected families gathered at Tel Mahaba, arriving on foot by camel, by mule and by motor vehicle, in order to plan their protest action.

With fierce-looking daggers tucked into their belts, they squatted in a large semi-circle and listened to the Beduin spokesman, who spoke in Arabic against the airfield plan. At one point the tribesmen were joined by a chanting crowd of radical Arab students who arrived in a special bus.

Under the land acquisition Bill, now awaiting the second reading, the Cabinet proposes to allow the Beduin the right of judicial appeal against the size of compensation but not against the act of expropriation.

Compensation proposals have recently been published and widely criticised by political supporters of the Beduin. They maintain that the sums are much less than those paid to Jews who have had to vacate their settlements as a result of the changes in land boundaries with Egypt.

"The Government is not prepared to treat the Beduin in the same way as Jewish settlers, although both groups are citizens of the state," an Israeli anthropologist explained. "As a result, the Beduin are becoming embittered and politicised in a fashion which has never happened before."

Among those present at a two-hour meeting was Mr Nur El-Khalid, chairman of the military Association for Beduin Rights, who was recently imprisoned after a similar demonstration ended violently. "The next step is a march on Jerusalem," he said. "We are prepared to do everything to keep our lands."

Although the number of tribesmen involved in the dispute is relatively small, it is an issue capable of whipping a high emotion.

If the Beduin are removed from their land, the extreme, primitive, and essential nature of the desert will be lost. Under the terms of the B. the Government intends to move the Beduin into a series of new villages. Two of which have already been built. The authorities say the is not sufficient water available to put the Beduin into agricultural enterprises as they have requested.

Yesterday I visited a number of the scattered goatkin ten and makeshift huts where the Beduin families live, tending herds of goats and animals in almost impossible conditions. There is no electricity, no running water, no sanitation but, at the same time, no enthusiasm to abandon the area under the present terms.

One Beduin teenager said broken Hebrew: "We have always been loyal to the Government and now they are treating us badly. My family are afraid that if we ever leave this land, we will never get back or be able to prove it was ours."

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From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Nov 25

South African big business leaders have swung enthusiastically behind the development plan outlined last week by Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister. But their support has been tempered in some quarters with warnings that the euphoria flowing from the meeting will give way to bitter disappointment unless fundamental changes are brought about soon.

Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of the giant Anglo-American Corporation and a former Opposition MP, said this weekend: "The National Party in the sense that I have known it is crumbling. The Government has set off on a path from which there is no turning back. It has awakened great expectations and it will have to meet them."

Mr Oppenheimer said that the "basic problems of South Africa"—the starting of political power—had not been discussed at Thursday's meeting. "But it is no good waiting for the Government to do this before we improve living conditions," he said. "Political development will come, as reality is, even one believes that it will be."

He said the Government urgently needed to abolish pass laws and the 72-hour curfew.

## Oppenheimer warning on Botha policy changes

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He said the Government urgently needed to abolish pass laws and the 72-hour curfew.

"What is happening must lead inevitably to negotiation with black leaders and not simply consultation."

One of the country's leading black businessmen, Mr Sam Molsa, who is regarded as a conservative by blacks, expressed his doubts about the Government's policy. "Blacks need freedom. We need the right to own our land. Discrimination has to be removed. We need to be able to open businesses wherever we want," he said.

Mr Molsa said he did not respond to the Prime Minister's statement. "I feel that adjustments have to be made and made soon. But I praised the Government for its initiative in starting dialogue."

Business leaders have enthusiastically welcomed Mr Botha's pledge that his Government would pursue a "hands off" policy and leave business to itself as much as possible. But he left them still puzzled about what is envisaged by the political level.

While doubts remain, a general view seems to be that Mr Botha has brought off a considerable public relations success. He has been welcomed by Mr J. Vorster, his predecessor, who he declared in 1974: "Give it six months to change South Africa."

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## OVERSEAS

Kampuchean refugees  
fight over attempt  
to move them to safety

on Neil Kelly

The crisis on the Thailand-Kampuchean border to which more than 500,000 people have been forced by war and hunger has produced a new danger for Kampuchean refugees.

Spontaneous fighting has been going on for two days among the thousands of Kampuchean refugees who are trying to move them away from the border to a safer area.

The Kampuchean army is in a difficult position. It is not clear whether the army will be able to control the border area.

One of the main problems is the lack of food and shelter for the refugees.

The Thai Army has been accused of attacking the refugees.

Some of the refugees have been killed by the Thai Army.

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Thailand has lodged another protest, the third in five weeks, with the United Nations over the shelling of Thai territory and incursions by foreign troops.

Three Laotians who entered Thailand last Friday told Thai officials that the Ministers of Education, Industry and Commerce and seven senior civil servants were arrested in dawn raids in Vientiane on Thursday.

Asylum plea: Thirteen Vietnamese who arrived in Singapore on board a military transport aircraft yesterday are being allowed to stay there temporarily pending a response from the United States to their request for asylum.

Heracles C130 aircraft with the 10 men, one woman and two children appeared over Singapore airport yesterday and requested permission to land because of engine trouble.

As soon as the aircraft landed the occupants said they were hoping to go to the United States and asked permission to get in touch with the American Embassy.

Reunited: The American Embassy in Singapore said it had received a message from the United States.

Mr. George Cioba, who now heads the Ministry of Trade, was ousted after a series of short-comings.

His removal from office provides the opportunity for Mr. Ceausescu to get rid of men who do not totally agree with him.

The removal from the executive of Mr. Ion Iliescu seems to make this point. He was sent to last to become country secretary.

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Prince Sihanouk waves to Kampuchean exiles on arrival in France.

## Sihanouk seeks international talks

Paris, Nov 25.—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Kampuchean head of state, today called for an international conference to put an end to the fighting which has raged in his country for more than a decade.

The prince, who arrived in Paris from Peking, said that only military pressure would push Vietnam and the Soviet Union to the conference table.

He was speaking to reporters at Charles de Gaulle airport where hundreds of Kampuchean exiles turned out to welcome him.

The prince said he would establish his base in Paris for the next three months while making visits throughout western Europe.

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Though denying that he was a "candidate for national leadership," he made it clear that one of the aims of his tour was to rally support round himself for a neutralist force that would challenge Kampuchean administrations supported respectively by the Soviet Union and China.

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East-West trade vexed  
by recognition issue

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Nov 25

Talks open here tomorrow between the European Economic Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the Soviet trading block, on the vexed question of concluding a trade agreement between the two European groupings.

Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, the EEC Commissioner for External Affairs, is leading a delegation to meet Mr Nikolai Fadayev, Comecon's secretary and to try to negotiate an agreement on political and economic cooperation.

Previous talks have always broken down because the EEC maintains that Comecon does not have the legal or institutional powers to negotiate on behalf of its 10 members, while the Russians and their allies are reluctant to sign anything that implies recognition of the Community as a supranational entity.

The Russians have always insisted that the two organisations be treated as equals, but such a contention when put forward in Comecon's draft agreements has always been rejected by the EEC.

Negotiations are no further forward than when Mr Haferkamp came here in the summer last year. Comecon groups the original East European members—Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland and Romania—with Cuba, Mongolia and, more recently, Vietnam.

Unlike the EEC, it has no common external tariff, and unlike Comecon the EEC has no centralized economic planning.

The Russians want a framework agreement to be signed by all individual member countries, as well as by the two organisations, while the EEC wants the two blocks to deal only with each other.

One added difficulty is that many Comecon members already have bilateral agreements with the Community, and these differ in scope and content, with Romania having the closest links.

No Comecon country has a formally accredited ambassador to the Community, unlike China and Yugoslavia.

The Soviet Union not only does not need an agreement with the EEC for economic reasons, since it exports mainly fuels and raw materials not affected by the most favoured-nation status (which Comecon ostensibly seeks), but it must also be wary of the political consequences of such an agreement.

In spite of ideological objections, however, the Russians have felt obliged to recognize what *Pravda* called the Community's "objective reality". And so support Western Communist parties which are fighting for workers' rights within the Community.

But some of the work of the European Parliament has caused serious alarm in Moscow. Discussion in Paris of European defence by the Parliament's bureau in September was labelled a subterfuge to get the Parliament to join in the NATO propaganda campaign to increase military spending.

And Parliament's autumn session, according to Tass saw a marked pronouncement of the "dangerous old trends" of broadening the Parliament's powers.

Tass said right-wing parties were using integration in Western Europe to strengthen NATO's political foundation and "to try to turn the European Parliament into an instrument of struggle against the socialist countries".

Moscow likes to emphasize the splits and crises within the EEC, and is now making much of Britain's quarrel with France over lamb and the size of British budgetary contributions.

Nevertheless as far as trade relations with the EEC are concerned, the Russians want to have their cake and eat it. And the European Parliament, which has passed a resolution linking most favoured-nation status for Comecon to the human rights question, could well upset whatever agreement the Commission is able to negotiate with Comecon.

The losers in any breakdown of talks would be the other East European countries, which badly need to negotiate improved access to the Community's markets.

Prisoners of  
conscience

Vietnam:

Nguyen

Tran Huyen

By Clifford Longley

Several thousand Vietnamese are believed to be still held in custody without trial because of their associations with the previous non-communist regime.

Nguyen Tran Huyen, a journalist, aged 60, who worked as a consultant and interpreter for the foreign press before the end of the war, was arrested in June, 1978.

According to Amnesty International, he had been urged by colleagues to leave the country, but had chosen to stay on to continue with his writing under the new government.

He had been brought up in the North, and the family with which he was associated had been harassed by the French colonial authorities for its left-wing activities.

He studied in the South after the French defeat, and became a well-known commentator under the pseudonym Cao Giao.

Nguyen Tran Huyen has not been charged or tried, and according to information available in the West, the specific complaint against him appears to be that he has kept up contact with writers in the West.

He is believed to be in poor health. He was held first in Chi Hoa Prison, Saigon, which has been used for the detention of political prisoners under both regimes, but it is now thought likely that he is being held in a detention centre in the North.

More women brought in to  
lead Romanian party

on Dossa Trevisan

grade, Nov 25

On a reshuffle of the Romanian Communist Party executive bureau, whose membership now increased to 45, President Ceausescu has dropped a senior official and brought seven women.

With the exception of Mr. Ion Iliescu, on the executive for years and, because of his ngarian origin perhaps in agreement with Mr Ceausescu's ethnic policy, all had lost in various Government posts.

Mr. Ceausescu's last week's congress and in eclipse, therefore, did not come as a surprise.

Mr. Menar Manescu resigned Prime Minister in March on he was replaced by Mr. Iliescu, brother-in-law of Mr. Ceausescu and regarded, for many years as Romania's number one.

General Teodor Coman, former Minister of the Interior, dismissed 18 months previously along with a large number of high-ranking police.

Minister of Mining lost his post after a senior security official, Mr. Ion Pacepa, defected to the United States.

Mr. George Cioba, who now heads the Ministry of Trade, was ousted after a series of short-comings.

His removal from office provides the opportunity for Mr. Ceausescu to get rid of men who do not totally agree with him.

The removal from the executive of Mr. Ion Iliescu seems to make this point. He was sent to last to become country secretary.

Mr. Iliescu was a powerful figure in the government and was popular among intellectuals for his liberal views.

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Death toll from  
Colombian  
tremor now 40

Bogotá, Nov 25.—Five more bodies have been discovered in the ruins of houses wrecked by the earthquake in Colombia. They bring the death toll to 40.

A civil defence spokesman said. About 500 people were injured by the 15-second tremor which was felt in most of Colombia as well as in neighbouring Panama, Ecuador and Venezuela.

Rescue workers were still searching for the rubble of a five-storey block of flats which collapsed in Pereira and at Risaralda, where at least 1



**The Thames Barrier : as the water rises, so does the cost.**

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judging by the time it has taken to get the present one built, the time to start thinking about London's next flood defence is now.

**Alan Hamilton**

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The property has some 23,000 sq ft on five floors and is held on a ground lease from the Swansea City Council at a fixed ground rent with an unexpired lease of about 71 years. General Acci-

In the West Midlands, Grosvenor Estate Commercial Developments have begun construction of a four-storey office block near the centre of Redditch. To be named St Stephen's House, the offices will be phase two of the Prospect Hill develop-

The building is due to be ready next November. Architects are Edmund Kirby and Sons, of Liverpool, with John Laing Construction as main contractors. Letting will be through Hillier Parker May and Rowden, of London, and Grimley and Son, of Birmingham.

Over in Cardiff, Trafalgar House Developments have agreed a ground lease of 125 years on a site at the corner of Fitzalan Place and Fitzalan Road, where construction will begin next spring of a new office block of 70,000 sq ft gross. Debenham Tewson, of Cardiff, acted for the British Petroleum Pension Trust, who are the freeholders, and have been retained as letting agents jointly with Walker Son and Packman, of Bristol, who negotiated the acquisition for Trafalgar House.

An artist's impression. St Stephen's House, an office block being built in Redditch by Grosvenor Estate Commercial Developments.

In a large industrial sale the former RAF maintenance unit at Hartlebury, Worcestershire, has been sold at auction by Edwards Bigwood and Bewley for £485,000. The buyers were Penarth Commercial Properties, who intend to build a warehouse estate on the 20-acre site. The complex was built just before the end of the last war.

Teesland Development in partnership with Cruden Development, are to carry out a warehouse or light industrial scheme at Kettlebridge Road, Sheffield, just off the Parkway. - The site of 2.7 acres was obtained in open tender from the City of Sheffield and is to be ground leased on a peppercorn rent with the developers paying a premium of over £70,000 a acre of developable land.

The scheme will provide a total of 56,320 sq ft in a maximum of nine units and will be known as the Manor Park Industrial Estate. First units should be available next July. Both developers were represented in the acquisition by Henry Spencer and Sons, of Sheffield, now the letting agents.

**Gerald Ely**

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<p><b>PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS</b></p>	<p><b>PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS</b></p>
<p><b>University College of Botswana</b> Applications are invited for the post of <b>LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE</b></p> <p>Applicants should have background in Geography and/or Planning, with knowledge of ecology. The appointee will be responsible for the teaching of economic geography, and spatial and environmental geography, and regional planning and development. He will also be concerned with quantitative techniques and map interpretation. He will be responsible for planning in a development context.</p>	<p><b>UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW</b></p> <p><b>LECTURERSHIP IN THE DEPARTMENT OF QUANTITATIVE METHODS</b></p> <p>Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Economics to the Faculty of the Departments of Political Economy and International Economic Studies in the University of Glasgow. The International Economic Studies Section is a new section and is expected to launch projects in the near future. It is envisaged to graduate students in the Department of Economics and to Development Countries. In the Department of Political Economy the candidate will be expected to teach economic geography and quantitative methods of view.</p>

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Applications, together with the names and addresses of two referees, and a curriculum vitae, should be sent to Professor C.D. Mathers, Department of Physics, University of Leicester, LE1 7RH, by October 17th, 1979. Further particulars about the project are available on request.

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in the subjects of Law and  
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of Law and Political Science.

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It is intended to make appointments within the month of December 1919. The successful applicant would be expected to devote a considerable part of his or her part-time and special-leave time from the Assistant Secretary of Birmingham, Mr. Ben C. McCall, to the work of the Bureau in the form of making three or four reports per month. Salary, \$1400 per annum. For further information, write to Mr. C. B. McCall, Assistant Secretary, Birmingham, Ala., 1416 December 1919. Please refer to C/205/A.

For the past several years, the National School Boards Association has been sponsoring a series of training and development seminars for school administrators. The seminars are designed to help school administrators gain the skills and knowledge necessary to lead their schools into the 21st century. The seminars are held on a biennial basis, with the next one scheduled for 1997-98. Seminars will be held in conjunction with the National School Boards Association's annual convention, which will be held in Las Vegas, NV, from December 1-5, 1997.

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مركز امن راولپنڊ



Nicholas Ashford explains the tribal background to the new election

# The crucial choice before Zimbabwe Rhodesia

Although the Lancaster House process for Zimbabwe Rhodesia has not yet been signed and sealed (and could still be torpedoed as a result of the latest Rhodesian raids into Zambia), campaigning has already begun for what is certain to be the most important election in the country's history.

So much more hangs on the outcome than just the fact that one party will win more parliamentary seats than another. The result will decide whether the country can continue on its present somewhat uneasy course of "moderation" or will swing towards a more radical form of black nationalism.

It will decide whether or not the 230,000 whites will continue to have a role to play in the country. And the outcome will decide whether the nation's seven million inhabitants can finally look forward to an era of peace and stability or will instead find that the present racial conflict will degenerate into a tribal one.

Bishop Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) has been first off the mark. Taking advantage of its majority position in the present Government, Bishop Muzorewa and his ministers have recently introduced a number of vote-catching measures such as a reduction in the price of certain essential goods and the announcement of a minimum wage (£17 a month) for agricultural workers and the sudden release of large numbers of political prisoners.

Whether such gestures will slow the erosion of Bishop Muzorewa's grassroots support remains to be seen, but it would seem unlikely.

During its first five months in office Bishop Muzorewa's administration failed to introduce the sorts of reforms which its supporters had hoped for. Last minute gestures, such as those which are now being made, are unlikely to convince many voters.

Bishop Muzorewa's claim to have achieved peace will be more persuasive, however, particularly if there is a reasonably effective ceasefire. This is the ticket on which he fought the last election and it is peace

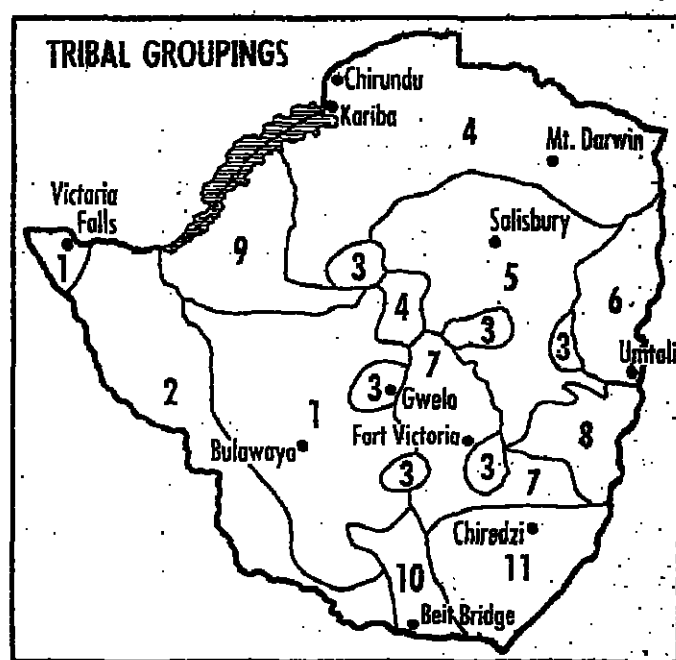
above all else most Black Zimbabweans want to see restored. Bishop Muzorewa's spectacular return to Salisbury last weekend—a modern Moses returning to his people in an executive jet—was clearly designed to boost his image as a peace-maker. He had returned to lead his followers to the promised land of peace. But how many will follow him there? And how many others will turn to those who fought the war that eventually forced the whites to sue for peace—the Patriotic Front?

Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zanu wing of the Patriotic Front has also started gearing up for the election campaign. For the past couple of weeks Zanu's principal representative inside the country, Mr Cephas Mupfema, has been holding well-attended briefings with Zanu loyalists. However, Zanu and Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu organization are both still banned and Mr Mupfema was forced to cancel four rallies which he planned to address last weekend.

Mr Mugabe's supporters have been less openly active. But the backdrop of his support lies in the tribal trust lands where the war is still raging. In these areas his political commissars have been campaigning for years in the wake of his Zanu guerrillas whose influence now extends over large parts of rural Rhodesia. Just how extensive is his support in these areas is the question to which no one present really knows the answer.

Some people believe that an ending of the war, and particularly a cessation of coercive activity by the security forces, will produce a great flood of support for Mr Mugabe in the east, central and southern parts of the country. However, others argue that many ordinary tribesmen will swing away from Mr Mugabe if Zanu can be made to cease its strong-arm tactics.

At present the forthcoming election is being portrayed as a power struggle between the UANC and the Patriotic Front. The other parties, such as the Rev Ndabazimu Sibhile's wing of Zanu, Mr James Chikere's Zimbabwe Democratic Party (ZDP) and Mr Michael Mawema's Zimbabwe National Front (ZNF) are regarded as little more than side-shows, although one which could



There are 11 different tribes in Zimbabwe Rhodesia. As numbered in the map they are: 1 Ndebele, with 14 per cent of the population and 44 chiefs; 2 Kalanga (5% and 3). These first two are Ndebele-orientated tribes. Next come six Shona-orientated tribes: 3 Rozwi (9% and 20); 4 Karanga (12% and 22); 5 Manyika (13% and 9); 6 Karanga (22% and 35); 7 Ndaua (3% and 11). The remaining three tribes are: 8 Tonga (2% and 27); 9 Venda (1% and 6); and 11 Shangaan (1% and 5).

The divisions shown in the map are based upon historical fact. They do not necessarily mean that a modern African nation should be Ndebele-orientated in matters of sport, politics or any other aspect of organized life. There are also further sub-groupings—the Shona language group, for instance, has approximately 65 sub-groupings.

hold the balance of power in the likely event that neither the UANC nor the Patriotic Front will win an overall majority in the future 100-seat assembly.

As for the whites, they seem destined to vote overwhelmingly for the Rhodesian Front (RF) once again which will place the 20 white MPs in a dominant position (perhaps dangerously so) in the new parliament. But most black Zimbabweans will not be voting on either party or ideological lines, for "moderation" is the watchword. "Moderation" is a word which is being used to describe the tribal factor will, regrettably, be of far greater importance to the final outcome. Already the parties are beginning to fragment dangerously on tribal lines.

Tribalism is a dirty word in

Africa and, to their credit, the leaders of the UANC and the Patriotic Front have tried to avoid tribalism for at least as long as tribal differences—differences which have been deepened as a result of decades of divide and rule tactics by the white minority.

Mr Mawema, who set up the ZNF three weeks ago in a deliberate attempt to cultivate the votes of the Shona-speaking Karanga, believes that 80 per cent of the electorate will vote on tribal lines. Mr Tandi Dumbushu, a black communist, said "if you remove the element of coercion then most people will vote for people who are closest to them, in terms of language, culture and the same basic ideology does not really come into it."

## The high money stakes in Dublin

The discussions which Mrs Thatcher will hold on Thursday and Friday in Dublin with other EEC leaders at their regular winter summit meeting will arguably be the most crucial since Britain joined the Community in 1973, and certainly since the last summit in Dublin in 1975 which saw the completion of the Labour Government's renegotiation of membership.

That sort of claim, of course, has been made before, but for once it is more than hyperbole. A remarkable "head of steam" —as Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, remarked in Brussels last week—has built up in Britain behind the issue of its EEC budget contribution, and the pressure threatens, unless released, to blow away what is left of pro-Community feelings in disenchanted public opinion.

The worst scenario sees Mrs Thatcher being offered only modest relief at Dublin. She is unable to justify this as acceptable to the Commons or the

British people, leaving herself no alternative but to instruct her ministers to pursue a deliberate campaign of obstruction within the EEC until Britain gets its way. And even if the anti-European mood sets in, paving the way for eventual withdrawal from the EEC under a Labour Government led by Mr Tony Benn.

There is no doubt that determined wrangling tactics by Britain could make life hell for our EEC partners and be popular at home. Any member state can quite legally veto any new Community policy or prevent agreement on rises in EEC farm prices at the spring price-fixing, even on matters normally decided by majority vote. Britain can invoke the so-called Luxembourg Compromise which permits a member state to veto anything it deems a threat to a vital national "interest".

Old hands in Brussels cannot quite believe the budget dispute will come to this. In the end, a face-saving compromise has always been found, usually

sufficiently complicated to permit of multiple interpretation. The only factor this added view does not quite account for is the distinctly unjaded single-mindedness of Mrs Thatcher. The essence of the dispute can be simply stated. The revenue for the EEC budget, which finances the policies the nine pursue jointly, is furnished by the uniform duties and levies exacted on industrial and agricultural imports from outside the EEC and from the proceeds of a fraction (up to one per cent) of value-added tax. Britain still buys nearly 60 per cent of its imports from non-EEC suppliers and so makes a relatively high gross contribution—estimated at 20 per cent in 1980—to the budget.

That compares unfavourably with a 16 per cent British share of the EEC's gross national product (GNP), a generally accepted measure of relative wealth. But it is the other side of the ledger that really hurts for historical reasons the EEC still spends 75 per cent of its budget on agriculture, and as the least agricultural country of the nine Britain inevitably gets only a small share of Community expenditure—probably less than 10 per cent next year.

The difference between what Britain pays in and what it gets out is the net contribution about which all the fuss is being made. This is forecast to be between £1,000m and £1,200m next year, far more than even West Germany, the EEC's

richest member, is expected to be paying. That Britain, with the third lowest per capita gross national product in the Community, should be saddled with this burden is, to Mr Callaghan, a self-evident injustice.

Before battle is joined in Dublin, it is perhaps worth trying to explain why the injustice seems less self-evident to other members. There are three main lines of counter-argument, most cogently developed by the French NRP to the British case. The first goes roughly as follows: Britain entered the EEC fully expecting to suffer a substantial budget deficit.

It may be, so the argument runs, that the British deficit is now bigger than foreseen, and some corrective action may be needed. It may also be that other hoped-for benefits have not materialized, but the blame for that must be put on Britain's antiquated industries, low productivity and appalling unemployment. To punish him, the EEC should not be allowed to pay at the door of the EEC.

If a "broad balance" between budget payments and receipts is now essential for the EEC, it is essential for the EEC to pay more to Britain. The second line of argument is that the British deficit is not simply a matter of timing. It will simply go away of its own accord as agricultural spending is brought under con-

trol and the proportion of British trade conducted with the EEC rises.

Not, it is argued, should Britain's relative poverty be exaggerated. In present circumstances, the oil is priceless asset, and Britain per capita GNP, calculated at purchasing power parities rather than at market exchange rates, is already about 90 per cent of the EEC average and would move up sharply once Greece, Portugal and Spain are in the Community.

The third and more doctrinal argument contends that budgetary revenue represents the Community's "own resources", since it arises out of the application of jointly-agreed EEC policies and the tariff arrangements, and is not simply the sum of individual contributions. If every member state were to demand a just return, an exact return on what it puts into the budget, the entire system would break down.

Britain certainly was well aware on entry that the budget was not geared to ability to pay and that it would incur some financial loss.

The argument that Britain's deficit will right itself in time hardly reassures Mrs Thatcher, who needs something immediate to satisfy domestic political opinion as she faces a winter of economic discontent. It also implies a questionable assumption about the political will in the EEC for radical agricultural reform.

The tribal factor in Zimbabwe Rhodesia is not simply a matter of the Ndebele minority (about 20 per cent of the population) against the Shona-speaking majority. The Shonas are also sub-divided into six major groups, of which the most important are the Karanga (who, with the Rozwi, comprise about 32 per cent of the black population). The Zezuru (18 per cent) and the Manyika (13 per cent).

In last April's election Bishop Muzorewa won the overwhelming support of Shona voters. He performed particularly well in the three Mashonaland Provinces where the Zezurus predominate.

This time, however, the Zezurus will be divided. Some will support Mr Chikereza who split from the UANC, with six other MPs to form the ZDP. Others may turn to Mr Mugabe, who is a Zezuru, or to Zanu which has several prominent Zezurus on its executive. Others will stay with the Bishop who has kept three Zezurus in his cabinet.

The Manyika vote will also be similarly fragmented. Muzorewa himself is a Manyika and has already been accused of tribalism because of his party and official posts which have been awarded to fellow Manyika. But Mashonaland is the province from which Zanu has drawn many of its recruits and where the Zezuru forces are most active. And in the north of Mashonaland, around Chipinge, the Rev Sibhile has his tribal base which provided him with four of his 12 seats last April.

But the key will lie with the two million Karangas living in the huge tribal areas around Fort Victoria. The Karangas are the most martial of the Shona tribes and provide the backbone, not only of the Shona but of the Rhodesian army but of the Zanu guerrilla forces as well.

Hitherto the Karangas were believed to be solidly behind Mr Mugabe, a fact which seemed to be born out by the low poll in the Victoria provincial election. However, the Karangas could be divided by the advent of Mr Mawema's ZNF which is trying to woo Karangas away from Mr Mugabe by evoking memories of the 100 years since the Karangas were banished to detention in Mozambique.

## 600 years of the Wykeham connexion



New College, Oxford: corridors of power.

Tonight the 88 freshmen and 26 freshwomen of New College, Oxford, will be dining to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the founding of the college by William of Wykeham.

It is doubtful if the founder, who rose from obscure origins in Hampshire to become Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor of England, would have approved of his college's sixteenth-century year. He saw the main purpose of the college as being to produce priests with a handful of lawyers and administrators as well.

Wykeham laid down strict rules of plain living and high thinking to ensure that members of New College devoted themselves to godliness and the studies of good learning. "Dis-honourable games" like chess and football were banned, and the fellows were allowed only a shilling a week for food. Several fellows later resigned because of the poor commons.

The founder was also very strict about who should be elected to college. In 1382 he founded Winchester College to provide New College with boys proficient in Latin and he decreed that only scholars from his school should come up to "take their place".

He did not, however, show the same strictness when it came to members of his own family. His statutes made generous provision for the admission of his own sons and by 1385 the vast majority of the 70 fellows of New College claimed consanguinity with him.

It was not until 1854 that the college statutes were changed to allow the admission of non-consanguineous undergraduates. The first non-Wykehamist to be admitted as a scholar of New College was W. A. Spooner, who went on to become the first non-Wykehamist Fellow and Warden, and who may have been the last of his kind.

The Wykehamist ethic has continued to pervade New College long after the exclusive connexion with the school was broken. In the late 1930s that the number of Wykehamists in the place gave New College "a certain prim, slightly self-satisfied, almost ecclesiastical air". When recently an applicant to the college wrote to the Warden asking if he could bring up with him his common law wife he was politely told to try Balliol.

It was somewhat characteristic of the college that in the late 1920s and 1930s, New College should be nurturing its

own peculiarly Wykehamist breed of socialist in the persons of Hugh Gaitskill, Douglas Jay, Richard Crossman and Lord Lonsdale. A more recent graduate, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, has removed all mention of his New College education from his entry in *Who's Who*.

Archbishop Laud observed in 1635 that it was surprising to find how many good scholars from Winchester came up to New College and "yet so few of them afterwards prove eminent men". He attributed this state of affairs to excessive study of Calvin's Institutes.

Dr Percy Williams, Fellow in History at New College and co-editor of a fascinating, semi-centennial history, reckons that Laud's comment still holds good. New College, he says, has produced a considerable number of distinguished civil servants and judges, just as its founder wished, but very few great household names as have Balliol, Magdalen and Christ Church.

Certainly New College has done its bit to populate the corridors of power. From those who were undergraduates in the 20 years between the wars have sprung six law lords, two Lords Chancellor, the first Ombudsman, and two general secretaries of the TUC (George Woodcock and Len Murray) as well as numerous ambassadors and senior civil servants.

Old and new graduates have been: wine and dined at the college during this sixteenth-century year. They have also been invited to contribute to an appeal which has so far raised £780,000 of its £2m total. One of the purposes of the appeal is to build a new quadrangle behind the unimpressive facade of William Morris's original garage in Holywell Square.

The college failed to win an appeal against a ruling by Oxford City Council that as the birthplace of the British motor industry, the facade of the garage should be preserved as an ancient monument. It is not, however, the best of times for the college. Dr Arthur Cooke says, "We will erect a suitable monument to Morris in the entrance to the new quad. It will be something more than a plaque and we are hoping that perhaps British Leyland will come up with something appropriate."

Jan Bradley  
"New College, Oxford, 1979-1979. Edited by Percy Williams and John Buxton. £6."



## Fortunately, his spirit lives on.

Only James Buchanan, regarded by many as the father of Scotch Whisky, could have composed a blend of fine whiskies so smooth and satisfying as to win the century-long devotion of his entire house.

The Buchanan Blend has now been introduced to the public in the belief that discerning whisky drinkers everywhere will appreciate its rounded excellence.



**The Buchanan Blend**  
THE SCOTCH OF A LIFETIME

Mayor Richard Daley used to run Chicago like a medieval monarch, ruthlessly playing off his barons one against the other and keeping the serfs to heel. It is therefore appropriate that, two years after his death, his heirs—both political and natural—should be engaged in a classic struggle for the succession.

Shakespeare would have adored the plot, which bristles with vengeance and betrayal. As the second act began last week, Chicago seemed certain to keep its reputation for staging the nation's most fascinating big-city political drama, with important implications for next year's presidential contest.

"We're witnessing something I never thought I'd see in this town, a schism in the traditional Irish leadership," said Dr Louis Masotti, director of the Centre for Urban Affairs at Northwestern University and a former aide to Mrs Jane Byrne, the mayor. "It's beginning to resemble all-out warfare."

I shall summarize the first act briefly, for those who missed it. When Daley died his successor, ex-officio, was Michael Bilandic, a colourful but loyal official with a single political asset: that he came from Daley's old ward, the eleventh, whose delegates effectively controlled the Democratic Party organization.

In two years as mayor, Bilandic did little of note except, faithfully, to dismiss his consumer affairs commissioner, Mrs Jayne Byrne, also an old Daley loyalist. Her offence was to suggest that he had been im-

properly influenced to approve an increase in taxi fares.

When the time came to choose a candidate for this year's election the eleventh ward persuaded the party committee to stick with Bilandic, despite his being a Roman Catholic and of Irish ancestry. Mrs Byrne announced that she would run against Bilandic and the machine.

Everyone smiled at the presumption of this with 67-year-old, feisty she may be, but the machine was invincible. Last winter there was more snow in Chicago than in customary and Bilandic's administration failed abysmally to clear it away.

Democratic voters in the February primary cold-shouldered the machine and chose Mrs Byrne as the candidate. After the primary, the party rallied to support Mrs Byrne in the election, but she saw that if she was to be her own woman she would have to break the eleventh ward's stranglehold on the machine. After Daley died, control of his ward passed to his eldest son Richard, aged 37, sometimes called Richard the Second.

The party machine maintains its grip on city politics by having in its gift some 35,000 patronage jobs, many more than in any other American city. (New York, with two and a half times the population, must juggle fewer than 8,000 patronage jobs.)

In Mayor Daley's time the eleventh ward had cornered more than its share of those jobs. Soon after becoming mayor Mrs Byrne began systematically to dismiss eleventh

ward people, first from senior posts and then, in larger numbers, at a more junior level.

Mr Neil Hartigan, a former lieutenant-governor of Illinois, and now one of Mrs Byrne's main opponents inside the party, is accused of using the most outrageous political muscle. A columnist in the *Chicago Tribune* wrote of her as "the innovator of the politics of meanness. Desires, who helps Mrs Byrne run council meetings, had a different view. "These people were put into their jobs as part of a corrupt scheme. Now they're losing them as part of the patronage system."

Richard Daley made a moving defence of his people. "Some of them have been in their jobs for ten or fifteen years," he said. "Some have sick children or sick wives or are elderly. Nevertheless, they were put into their jobs as part of a corrupt scheme. Now they're losing them as part of the patronage system."

Daley, being the son of his father, was not going to accept this weekly and last week he made his first decisive move to regain control of the party from the usurper. He announced himself as a candidate for the state's attorney, a powerful office whose holder can investigate politicians for corruption—or, equally important, can quash such investigations.

Mrs Byrne is certain to support a rival candidate. Although she is not committing herself firmly last week, her attitude showed what she thought of Daley's qualifications. She said she was not familiar with them, adding drily that

she had been out of politics for 18 months after her dismissal. And that was the time, so it read in the papers this morning, that she matured.

This single electoral contest will be a crucial test of the struggle between Mrs Byrne and the party machine together against the determined challenge of a Daley. And it is at this point that the struggle takes on a national dimension.

A few weeks ago President Carter came to Chicago and spoke at a party fund-raising dinner. Mrs Byrne sat next to him and said that, if the Illinois primary had been held that night, she would have voted for him.

Only a week later she showed how bitterly that pledge had to be taken when she declared her support for Senator Edward Kennedy, for whose brother John she had campaigned in 1960. To rub it in, the \$5,000 raised at the Carter dinner went not put in the Kennedy campaign coffers.

This is a big gamble. Daley senior never used to declare his support for a candidate until the last minute, and then back the likely winner, reasoning that it would be good to have a friendly face in the White House.



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Both Daley and Mrs Byrne seem convinced that victory will go to the one who can convince party workers that he or she is the legitimate recipient of the old Daley mantle. Announcing his candidacy for Senate, however, Daley said, "In this campaign, as well as in every day of my life, I will remember my father and what he meant to me. I will continue to seek to emulate his kindness, his compassion and his high

standard for governmental service. Mrs Byrne often cites Daley, too, in particular she is trying to maintain the reputation which Chicago won under his stewardship as the city that served the poor. But this was only ever true for bankers and property developers, and that it never really worked for the poor or, especially, the blacks.

New York is not working so well for the money men, either. Its credit rating has slipped, meaning that it has to pay more to borrow. Last week there were fears that the school board may not be able to stump up the money to pay their teachers, something that is only supposed to happen in feckless cities such as Cleveland, Detroit or—dare I say it—New York.

Daley used to be called "the boss". When Mrs Byrne took over, she was demagogically characterised as bossy. Now it is apparent that a more substantial epithet is in order.

The Second City, Chicago's resident satirical revue, has a song about the mayor which ends:

"It's such a great thing to know we're going to keep the status quo. The boss is back."

I would quarrel only slightly with that conclusion. The battle in Chicago is between a Daley son and a Daley protégé, with each other to prove which is the former mayor's spiritual heir. The boss back? He has never truly been away.

Michael Leapman





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## NATO'S NUCLEAR COVER

Russians have been trying hard to discourage NATO modernizing its medium range nuclear weapons in Europe. Mr. Brezhnev had an eye for an eye in his speech of October 6, and Mr. Gorbachev has just been reinforcing the message. The message is that NATO's nuclear cover is a threat to Europe. So far NATO has been standing firm, though Dutch have been wobbly, so seems reasonably certain that decision to modernize will be taken at the ministerial meeting in Brussels in mid-December. At the same time, it is putting together a package of proposals to match those of Mr. Brezhnev. There is just a chance that the time the new weapons are ready for deployment (in two years, perhaps) they will be needed.

This two-pronged approach is clearly the right one. No sane man wants to exacerbate tensions in Europe or to arm more than necessary. It would be folly to let the Russians have the last word. But there is not enough in Mr. Brezhnev's speech to justify putting off denunciation in the hope that need for it can be negotiated. If negotiations failed—and they probably would if the nukes for them were removed he military imbalance in Europe would become even more than it is now and the risks of trying to restore would become greater. The military case for modernization is very strong. NATO strategy is based on the doctrine of flexible response. This means the ability to make a scaled response to any level of threat, from the smallest local incident to full-scale intercontinental warfare. In recent years a gap has been

opening in the middle range of the scale. The Soviet Union has been deploying a new generation of nuclear weapons for the European theatre, notably the SS-20, which is an accurate, mobile missile with three warheads, and the "Backfire" bomber. Both these systems have ranges of over 3,000 miles and could reach western Europe from the Urals. Yet they themselves cannot be reached from western Europe except by obsolete and increasingly vulnerable aircraft. They have a sort of sanctuary status, uncontrolled by the SALT agreement and out of reach of European weapons.

In an escalating conflict Europe could therefore find itself in a jump straight from battlefield to intercontinental annihilation. While this could frighten the Russians, it could also tempt them to calculate that the United States would not risk its own cities for the sake of Europe. Dr. Kissinger confirmed in a recent speech that this might not be a wholly irrational calculation. Hence the NATO plan to deploy 108 short-range missiles and 464 ground-launched cruise missiles in Europe. Naturally the Russians try to prevent a decision as they have tried to avert every important NATO decision over the past thirty years, but they are wrong to depict it as a new threat emanating from West Germany. The weapons will remain under American control and are no more than a response to Soviet modernization. It is important that the Russians should not come to think that they have a veto over NATO decisions.

Yuri Brezhnev's speech of October 6 deserved examination. Mrs Thatcher's initial reaction was far too brusque. He announced the unilateral withdrawal of up to 20,000 Soviet troops and 1,000 tanks from East Germany and offered to reduce the number of medium range weapons in the western part of the Soviet Union. He also proposed extending the confidence-building measures of the Helsinki Final Act relating to the notification of troop movements and manoeuvres. Clearly his immediate aim was tactical and propagandist. His proposals were not tabled in negotiations, and western governments were not given the normal advance warning. Moreover, in their present form the proposals do not amount to very much. The Soviet Union has about 400,000 troops in East Germany, so it would not miss 20,000. Nor would it be any weaker for removing obsolete missiles—the International Institute for Strategic Studies calculates that with 120 SS-20s already in place only another 140 are needed to do the work of the 590 SS-4 and SS-5 missiles still deployed, and SS-20s are coming in at the rate of 50 a year.

Nevertheless, if the Russians are genuinely worried about the nuclear confrontation in Europe, they must be given a chance to prove it. Their proposals fall naturally into categories already covered by existing or imminent negotiations—SALT 3 (which could in fact start even if SALT 2 is not ratified by the US Senate), the Vienna talks on troop reductions, and next year's second review of the Helsinki Final Act. If the Russians really have something to offer, these negotiations will give them opportunities to show it. Meanwhile NATO must continue to plug the gap in its defence. After all, it was only the prospect of a NATO decision that prodded Mr. Brezhnev into action.

It is time such blanket secrecy was ended. Mrs Margaret Thatcher should heed the advice of Lord Jellicoe, published in *The Times* on Friday, that "The Government should come clean about civil contingency planning. It is an important area about which the public ought to be reassured". The fear of the Government's being smeared as a "strikebreaker" is largely a mirage. The platform rhetoric of trade union leaders would, no doubt, make swift and exaggerated reference to it if the Government did go public on the matter. But in private they accept that the Government has a duty to be ready for such eventualities and are genuinely relieved to know that, where possible, it is. An opinion poll taken in February at the height of Mr. Callaghan's winter of discontent put the question "Do you think the Government should, or should not, use troops to provide a basic service if there is a strike in a key industry?" In reply 78 per cent said the Government should, 17 per cent said it should not. Of trade unionists included in the sample, the proportions were 71 per cent and 22 per cent.

The most compelling reason for abandoning secrecy is the need for a measure of public and parliamentary accountability. Like Mr. Atlee, it took Mr. Heath two years and a spate of acute industrial troubles before an efficient emergency organization was created. The Prime Minister should review Whitehall's contingency planning arrangements as Lord Carrington urged her to in a report prepared in opposition. She has taken a laissez-faire attitude towards the work of the Civil Contingencies Unit to date. Above all, she should consider reconstituting the Civil Defence Corps as a national insurance policy against disasters of all kinds, both acts of God and acts of man. Protecting the civilian population from deprivation of the necessities of life is, arguably, the next duty of government after guaranteeing its security against occupation by a foreign power. A properly trained, well organized, publicly acknowledged emergency organization, under ministerial and Parliamentary control, would be a national asset above party and sectional interest. There is a role here for the new Select Committee on Home Affairs which might early in its life invite Mr. Whitelaw to present it with a paper on civil contingency planning.

## Free world and Iranian oil

From Lord Gishborough and others  
Sir, It is obvious that the action of the Iranian Government in condoning the seizure of American diplomats on their own soil in the American Embassy in Tehran is totally contrary to international law. Now they are threatening to take similar action against the British Embassy over some Iranian students whom their fellow students believe to have been arrested in the United Kingdom.

No doubt other Western Embassies will be similarly pressured and other Eastern countries may soon notice the effectiveness and emulate the actions of the Iranians. We believe that Britain should, therefore, take the lead and urge the rest of the free world to speak one voice, act together, and support the Americans in their trouble by suspending the purchase of any Iranian oil until international law is reestablished. Yours faithfully, LORD GISHBOROUGH, KIMBERLEY, ORR-OWING, House of Lords, November 23.

## Treatment of the Shah

From the Secretary General of the Islamic Press Union  
Sir, Your editorial "Bargaining with terrorism" (November 15), was in refreshing contrast to what has been written in the Western press on Iran.

I, however, wonder what is the attitude of the British and the Western press towards the former Shah. He is directly responsible for the massacre of thousands of innocent Iranians. If the West can seize Nazis from all over the world irrespective of the time which has elapsed since they had been suffering from cancer—why the former Shah should be treated differently. Why should his lot be not returned to Iran. Yours faithfully, MUHAMMAD ALI, Secretary General, Islamic Press Union, 16 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1, November 16.

## Immigration rules

From Mr P. Jones  
Sir, The absurdity of the new immigration rules can be demonstrated by the following example: My wife and I are both British citizens and so is my daughter. My daughter, however, was born abroad, but came to the United Kingdom at the age of two months. Should she be regarded as a foreign citizen? She will not now be allowed to live in the United Kingdom as of right. This right has been taken away and she is now a second class citizen. We have a friend who is a foreign woman. The husband, furthermore, is working for a foreign government. During a two-month holiday in the United Kingdom his wife gave birth to a daughter and consequently they would like to apply for United Kingdom citizenship for her. None of them has ever lived in the United Kingdom except for short holidays and yet their daughter will now have the right to marry a non-United Kingdom citizen and live in the United Kingdom. Though they do not pay taxes here, do not reside here, and are foreign citizens, their daughter will continue to have full rights.

We are British, reside here, pay taxes here, and yet, as our daughter was born abroad, she will not be able to have the same rights as the daughter of our foreign friends. We do not resent their position. We merely wonder what it is that we have done wrong. Yours faithfully, P. JONES, Lincoln's Inn, London, EC4.

## Nuclear future

From Sir Francis Tombs  
Sir, The South Wales Labour Party, in condemning (your word) me for "disgraceful remarks over the future of nuclear energy" (November 22), have leaped into where one might have feared to tread. I did, it is true, comment on an original statement by that body which called for a full enquiry into nuclear power. In so doing, I argued that safety studies of advanced gas-cooled reactors were not secret in the sense suggested by the South Wales Labour Party, but were very complex and as such were not capable of any quick assessment by any body not intimately concerned with nuclear power operation. They are, however, subject to close review by a statutory licensing authority independent of the nuclear industry.

I also pointed out that I did not expect to see or evaluate safety reports on, for instance, aeroplanes or railways, although I am a frequent user of them; why then should nuclear power stations, which have an exceedingly good safety record, be treated differently? Anyone who has studied my contributions to the nuclear debate should know that I welcome a full discussion of the issues. What I do not easily accept are moves designed to delay the due processes without seeking to add to the debate. Yours faithfully, FRANCIS TOMBS, The Electricity Council, 30 Millbank, SW1, November 22.

## Hello Day

From the Reverend Christopher L. V. Atkinson  
Sir, I have always believed Bernard Levin's experience of life to be complete. Obviously this is not so. With a dog collar around my neck every day is an "Hello Day". Woe be it that I do not speak to every stranger every day. I have not been pounced in the face yet! Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER ATKINSON, The Rectory, Tulsehew, West Midlands, November 21.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Duties of National Enterprise Board

From Sir Leslie Murphy  
Sir, Lord Boyd-Carpenter (November 23) has called into question the duties of the National Enterprise Board. As an industrial holding company, the NEB publishes annually its accounts in great detail and those accounts are audited by a major firm of professional accountants. The accounts of all the companies in which the NEB invests are, of course, audited by professional accountants and the NEB's auditors have direct contact with the individual companies' auditors on any matters that they wish to have explained or investigated. It is difficult to see what useful purpose would be served by a further audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The main task of the Comptroller and Auditor General is to investigate whether departments have properly expended funds voted by Parliament for the purposes for which they were voted. He has little to do with the audit of commercial undertakings and has no responsibility for the audit of the nationalized industries.

I am sure that it is better for the audit of the NEB to be carried out by a firm of professional accountants who, because of their wide experience of commercial companies, have also been used in many reports to the Board of the NEB on the procedures used by NEB staff to appraise investment proposals and to monitor the NEB's investment.

As regards its performance, the NEB is accountable to the Secretary of State for Industry and through him to Parliament. It is the Minister's right to decide whether the Board of the NEB has satisfactorily discharged its duties.

From Mr Jack Lindsay  
Sir, May I protest against the phrase, Climate of Treason, which is being used to fan the current wave of anti-Soviet hysteria? The correct phrase for the period would be Climate of Anti-fascism. It was one of the rights of the press to report the views of millions of people and not with half-a-dozen oddities.

What is omitted in all the comments on Blunt and his friends is the fact that they were upper-class, self-centred fantasists who, through their class position, could not do what the normal person, affected by the same emotions, did at the time: turn to the working class, to political parties or other organizations which expressed the anti-fascist positions.

They were a tiny, isolated, rootless group, completely unrepresentative of the British people. At the time, the social level, with access to governmental organizations such as the Foreign Office or the secret service, the politically naive and romantically exotic recourse to contacts with Soviet agents (not in any sense the normal practice of the time) was the only way of expressing their attitudes. It was a solution which, by its nature, cannot possibly recur. Yours, etc, JACK LINDSAY, Castle Hedingham, Essex.

## Common Prayer

From Bishop Frank West  
Sir, The Bishop of Peterborough has informed your readers in his letter of November 19th that the speeches of one or two of his fellow Christians and churchmen in the General Synod debate on the new services might have come from "the lost and unspeakable speeches of Atila the Hun". As most of us who read these words were not privileged to be present at the debate, we are in no position to judge of the accuracy of the Bishop's strongly worded indictment.

One test of this was intended to be whether it had met the financial duties set by the previous Secretary of State. This will have to be changed if the NEB remains under pressure to dispose of its profitable investments to raise a fixed capital sum to be handed back to the Treasury by a specified date.

I was always in favour of the NEB recycling some of its investments and several of them have already been sold. But the decision as to whether and when to do so should be taken by the NEB based on market conditions and on what would be in the best interests of the future of the business of the company concerned as well as the interests of the Treasury.

Other tests of the performance of the NEB will therefore have to be devised. But I regard it as most important that there should be an annual debate in Parliament on the performance of the NEB as shown in the Annual Accounts laid before Parliament.

In my view, the Secretary of State should be required to recommend to the House the sum of money to be provided to the NEB in the ensuing year and this should be the subject of a vote. In this way, Parliamentary control of the allocation of money to the NEB could properly be exercised without affecting the accountability of the NEB for the expenditure of that money which is, in my view, adequately safeguarded by the existing system.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, LESLIE MURPHY, Rospennan, Manor Lane, Garswood Cross, Buckinghamshire, November 23.

From Mr Michael Rubinstein  
Sir, The Assistant Editor of the *Evening News* (November 22) addressed the right questions to me and I answer them here as best I can in the space of a letter. Some of Mr Stuart Kuttner's questions I cannot answer briefly or, it may be, at all to his satisfaction; others evoke questions by way of reply.

1. What are the "interests of truth"? Could they be served by public interrogation, as a press conference however long or short, who ever asked the questions? Mr Kuttner's "journalists from unselected newspapers" could only have come from all the newspapers who chose to send them. How many would have come, and how could a "conference" of open dimension have been organized in the time available, as I thought desirable before the debate in the House on November 21? It was beyond my power and I decided not to attempt it.

Mr Kuttner's "journalists from unselected newspapers" might have been asked to bring with them "relevant pieces of the jigsaw". Some or all of them? Any of them? On the evidence of what has been published in the newspapers before the conference, and now with hindsight, I do not regret my decision to select only very few, or the selection I ultimately made. I believe that that may have spoken for itself. I am sure that the "consistent answers" may be understood to imply a fear that if questions came from different newspapers, Professor Blunt might have given inconsistent answers. Had I meant that, I would have referred to the risk of his appearing to contradict himself. In fact I meant only to imply that a consistent series of questions, coming from the same source, might have been asked from a very few questioners, able to ask them in a rational and logical order so as to evoke rational and logical replies.

immoderate in its tone and substance. My own widespread and concentrated experience of parochial worship in the south west of England has convinced me that it is those congregations that have taken the new services into their system which are showing signs of life and that those who are resolutely refusing anything to do with the new services are in decline or at any rate in a state of stagnation. Perhaps the Bishop of Peterborough can explain what he means by the "collected" congregations of those clergy who have adopted the new services. That adjective, which I take to be not intended as a compliment, certainly applies to many of the congregations where 1662 and nothing but 1662 obtains. Yours, etc, FRANK WEST, 11 Castle Street, Albourne, Marlborough, Wiltshire, November 19.

## 'Monty Python's Life of Brian'

From Mr Richard Adams  
Sir, I would feel less troubled about this film (*Monty Python's Life of Brian*) if I did not think it depends, for impact and success, upon wounding people's susceptibilities and blaspheming against an incarnate God whom many people believe in and worship. This is really a form of permitted cruelty (if it is to be permitted, that is) and in this respect resembles a bullfight or other form of animal baiting. The whole point is that the animal suffers. If it didn't, the animal is an animal and we are humans, so the infliction of its suffering, though pleasurable to us, is something for which no guilt need be felt.

I am an unbeliever. You are a believer. So I can hurt you, but you can't hurt me. What fun! And you are silly, and "other", because you are a believer, so I can enjoy your pain without feeling guilty for causing it. If you didn't feel it, my activity would be pointless.

The makers of the film no doubt see themselves as mockers of authority. Really, however, they are the equivalent of the soldiers who "led him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they call together the whole band" (St Mark, chapter XV). This is a condemned, helpless, deserted man, not a man like us. He's some sort of crazy preacher—anyway, he can't hit back. Let's have a bit of a lark. I doubt our Church will step in to help. They're much too busy with Series 3 and all that. Yours faithfully, RICHARD ADAMS, Knocksharry House, Lethbridge, Devon, November 22.

## Mountbatten statue?

From Mr Yehudi Menuhin  
Sir, May I add my voice in support of the suggestion proposed by Mr J. S. Lloyd in your letter columns of November 19—that of a statue of Lord Mountbatten on the vacant plinth in Trafalgar Square? Historically, to mark the most dramatic of Britain's transfers of power from one government to another governed (he was the last Viceroy of India) and humanly, as a unique man bred to honour, courage and authority, surely the nation would take a pride in this permanent reminder of the era and its outstanding figure. Yours faithfully, YEHUDI MENUHIN, 2, The Grove, Highgate Village, N6, November 21.

## State research

From Mr Tony Bunyan  
Sir, Peter Hennessy misses a crucial point in his article (November 20) on the use of the Emergency Powers Act. The restrictions on the use of troops in "limited" and "local" emergency situations contained in Queen's Regulations for the Army applied to times when no national emergency existed.

The insertion of the words "limited" and "local" in the regulations clearly reflected the intentions of Home Secretary Henry Brooke when he introduced his proposed Emergency Powers Act in February, 1964. He cited, in Parliament, bad weather, heat stress and severe snow and ice as the sort of situations to which the Act would apply. He had been prompted to say this by the prolonged bad weather of last winter.

Under the 1920 Emergency Powers Act, troops could be used in civil situations on a national scale, as long as a state of emergency had been declared and approved by Parliament. The powers granted by Parliament to a government under a state of emergency have to be renewed by Parliament each month, giving opportunity for appropriate discussion and debate. In the case of the 1977 firemen's strike, the Labour Government simply assumed powers to direct the use of troops on a national and extensive scale without asking Parliament's permission and without parliamentary debate. The elimination of the words "limited" and "local" from Queen's Regulations has made permanent this completely arbitrary extension of governmental powers, again without any reference to Parliament. It is high time our elected members discussed the matter. Yours faithfully, TONY BUNYAN, State Research, 9 Poland Street, W1, November 20.

## Wolfgang Amadeus Losey?

From Mr Hector Eduardo Luisi  
Sir, Could the editors of *The Times* come to my assistance and I suspect to that of many others? For I am at a loss. Most of the major cities of the world are currently being

## David Wood

### Nearing their politics with difference

Mr Roy Jenkins must not continue to expect, if he ever did, that Mrs Thatcher and all those in her party administration who stand close to her will join in the claim for the penetrating analysis he provided in the *Dimbleby* lecture of British politics since the 19th century. Nobody need search far for the reason that explains why. As his narrative developed with admirable lucidity, Mr Jenkins tried to explain how Mrs Thatcher became Mr Edward Heath to become leader of the Conservative Party and why she was not. He did not, however, see the cause of the recent and present troubles of the Labour Party he knows very well. For a crucial part of the Jenkins analysis depicted two main parties, government and Opposition, standing at political extremes, leaving a vacuum at the fulcrum of the seesaw where the ups and downs of the end might be evened out and moderated. The observable facts since 1945 are that succeeding governments, no matter what their rhetoric and policy manifestos have been in opposition, elected by standing aside the point of balance on the seesaw, and as one government allowed another the same economic and social nostrums and policies have been adopted and practised. That has been true even of nationalization and government intervention in industry, where the lines between the two main parties are at its deepest if you listen to the rhetoric.

Collectivist incomes controls are the supreme example, perhaps, because neither of the two main parties has any of its attachment to the policy, if only for electoral reasons. Yet Atlee and Cripps were forced into a pay freeze. Macmillan and Selwyn Lloyd had their pay

pause. The Wilson-Brown-Callaghan freeze and controls inevitably came, and, as last, Mr Heath who had sworn on oath never to use such a blunt instrument, followed suit. (Another example, by the way, is the joining of the European Economic Community, with almost everybody, including the Conservative party, on both sides following events, the broad impression has been that on essential and fundamental policies the Conservative and Labour parties, once in power, have been too much alike rather than too extreme in their differences.)

Show a Cabinet signs of a gathering crisis and they will snatch at the first paper the Treasury, or Whitehall, places in their nervous hands. We might almost agree, on the evidence, that a paradox comes into play. Until this year's general election, the best assurance of right-wing economic policies in government was a left-wing Prime Minister and Chancellor.

Enter Mrs Thatcher. Within two years of Mr Heath's tenancy of 10 Downing Street she was disenchanted by what came to be known as "U" turns: she was the first Cabinet minister to tell me at the time of her deepening disillusionment, and according to corridor talk she made her views known in the Cabinet room, although she did not belong to Mr Heath's inner circle or the right Cabinet committee to make any impact on the decisions.

After the Conservative Party's two election defeats in February and October, 1974, more frontbenchers and a majority of backbenchers shared Mrs Thatcher's conviction that Mr Heath, in spite of his promises of "quiet revolution", had strayed away from the alternative strategy that flowed out of Conservative thinking. She became the standard bearer of Conservatives, in- and outside Westminster, who were fed up with "me-tooism". The electorate in May this year took her view; the voters wanted a change, although they may not like it now they have got their wish.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
November 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Sandwich, this evening attended a gala held at Glamis Castle in aid of the Repertory Theatre, Dundee. The Hon Mrs Wills and Major The Lord Naylor and Estrick were in attendance.

Latest appointments include: Mr J. V. Higgs to be a member of the Prince of Wales's Council of Cornwall, and Mr P. H. P. Shaw, to be assistant secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall.

Mrs Frank Roberts is overwhelmed by the number of letters of sympathy she has received and regrets she is not able to answer them all.

### Birthdays today

Mr Charles Fort, 71; Mr R. W. Hamilton, 71; Sir Frank Macfarlane, 64; Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth H. Osborne, 65; Lord Strathcarron and Mount Royal, 56; Mr Emily Williams, 74.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr T. L. B. Davis and Miss D. Radway. The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs William Nathan Davis, of Madrid and London, and Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. L. Lindholm, and the late John Symonds Radway, of New York City.

Lieut S. J. J. Brown, RN, and Miss J. J. Turner. The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. J. Brown, of London, N1, formerly of Glyde, Athens, Greece, and Julia Zoe, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. J. Turner, of Swallow Cottage, Liphook, Hampshire.

### Dinners

Greyman's Association. The London dinner of the Greyman's Association of Durham University was held on Saturday at the Coburg Hotel. The toast to Grey College was proposed by Dr Peter Dawson and Sir Sidney Holdgate, Master, replied.

Old Plymouth and Marmaradon Club. The thirty-first annual dinner of the Old Plymouth and Marmaradon Club, held on Friday, November 23, at the Coburg Hotel, was attended by old boys of Plymouth College. Mr R. S. Davis, chairman,

### Today's engagements

The Queen attends Royal Variety performance in aid of Entertainment Arts. The Queen will attend a performance in aid of Entertainment Arts at the Royal Variety Theatre, Drury Lane.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, chairs the opening ceremony of the National Confederation of Sport in Amsterdam.

### Royal engagements

The following engagements for December have been announced from Buckingham Palace:

- 1: The Prince of Wales will attend a memorial concert for the victims of the Fleet Air Arm, Mountbatten of Burma at Guildhall, Southampton.
- 2: The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, chairs the opening ceremony of the National Confederation of Sport in Amsterdam.
- 3: The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, chairs the opening ceremony of the National Confederation of Sport in Amsterdam.
- 4: The Queen will hold an investiture at the Prince of Wales, Chancellor, the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, on an exhibition of the work of the university industry centre in Central Hall, University Square, Cardiff.
- 5: The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, chairs the opening ceremony of the National Confederation of Sport in Amsterdam.
- 6: The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, chairs the opening ceremony of the National Confederation of Sport in Amsterdam.
- 7: The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, chairs the opening ceremony of the National Confederation of Sport in Amsterdam.
- 8: The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, chairs the opening ceremony of the National Confederation of Sport in Amsterdam.
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### Parliamentary diary

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# Churchmen debate the moral dilemmas of our time

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs  
Correspondent

Anyone wandering into the assembly hall in Church House, Westminster, last week, would have been struck immediately by the preponderance of middle-aged, middle-class dog-eared, the extreme courtesy and high standard, in both delivery and content, of the proceedings, and the apparent complete absence of the church press from the table reserved for them. The British Council of Churches was in session.

In the course of the three-day meeting, the council decided to recommend to all who would listen that the time had come for economic disengagement from the South African economy, that a replacement of Britain's aging Polaris force was not called for, and that changes in British nationality law should respect the character of the nation as multicultural.

It was said that the police were in need of "pastoral care" from the churches; that voluntary organizations should be careful how they reacted to the Government's intention to shed some of the load of social service on to them, and

that a group of churchmen had recently met, talked to and prayed with the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. The proceedings were a precise reflection of the earnestness, the current concerns, and even the courageous futility of much of the institutional church life of the country, bravely trying to span the gap between ordinary church-going on the one hand and grave affairs of state on the other.

It is by no means certain that those on either end of the gap appreciate the effort; but Christianity is itself founded more on faith than on evidence, and the churches tend to decide their policies by the criteria of high moral purpose rather than practical effectiveness.

There are some quarters in which the British Council of Churches is viewed with passionate intensity, as a cause or even a crusade rather than a conciliatory forum. Particularly for the smaller Protestant and Anglican churches, it represents an opportunity to join forces with the bigger church guns, the Anglicans and Methodists, in addressing the problems of society, thus gaining degree of amplification for voices that

for those who do not hold such a fashionable, pro-integral church unity, the British Council of Churches is itself a manifestation of sufficient cooperation and unanimity; while for those beating a path towards the fuller concept of unity, the council is a signpost and staging post on the way.

Whatever the intentions, its most obvious *raison d'être* is as a forum wherein the one large national church and the English encounters the Nonconformist tradition.

It is a characteristic flavour of this encounter that it is impossible to tell the denomination or origin of any one speaker from what he or she says, and the council is never split along purely denominational lines.

The tone is invariably progressive, liberal, left of centre, and highly motivated. No one would believe very strongly and care very deeply would bother to stand for election, or survive the intense carelessness with which matters are debated, prophecy mixed with pedantry.

Many of those who influence the formation of policy are officers and administrators of the various churches who lack a

platform from which to speak elsewhere. Mr Derek Pattinson, for instance, who is secretary-general of the General Synod of the Church of England, never betrays an opinion on a controversial matter on his home ground, but emerges as a lively debater in the British Council of Churches.

There is a constant, though charitably phrased, complaint by leaders of the council that the press neglects it, the mirror image of the complaint that in turn neglects the press. Unlike every other church body of any size, it has no press office and no reservoir of skill at communication or image-building.

The complaint of press indifference could well be the sublimation of a more serious unease; the council lacks effective communication with its member churches by means of structured access to their governing bodies, and looks to the public media therefore to transmit whatever messages it wishes to see carried.

The council can act as a right, despite the association of the Methodist Conference or the general synod on any matter. It has to wait for the good offices of an intermediary, to table a motion, putting one of its members to the test.

## Science report Astronomy: Chemicals from Space

By the staff of Nature  
A meteorite recently found in Antarctica has provided scientists with a valuable sample of complex chemicals of extraterrestrial origin, preserved in pristine condition by its isolation in the ice.

The meteorite represents the least contaminated example of extraterrestrial organic material yet found in living organisms on earth. The chemicals—similar to those found in living organisms on earth—provide important clues about the synthesis of organic molecules during the formation of the solar system, and about chemical evolution before the emergence of life.

The small chunks of rock that reach the earth's surface as meteorites represent only a fraction of those that hit the atmosphere in a constant stream as the earth intercepts their orbit around the sun. Most of those are very small and burn before reaching the ground, often leaving a characteristic streak of incandescence in the sky.

However, a sufficiently large meteorite can survive the descent. For example, a meteorite weighing several tonnes crashed through the roof of a house in Alabama, ricocheted off a radio and struck the leg of a child sitting on a sofa. Thankfully, this is the only authenticated case of such extraterrestrial hostility.

Chemical compounds made up of amino acids, for example, methanamine, and other organic compounds, have been detected in meteorites. The question inevitably arises: could life have evolved during that primordial era?

The amino acids—provide the best clues to this problem. Past studies have shown that amino acids from meteorites are different from those found in living organisms. This is because they are not contaminated by the processes of life.

At the earliest stages of its formation, the solar system consisted of clouds of gas and dust that were gradually drawn together by gravity into a "protoplanet" into the sun and planets. These clouds are thought to have contained a variety of basic chemical elements such as carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen. But the detection in meteorites of complex

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## OBITUARY

### MISS MERLE OBERON Notable beauty of the screen

Miss Merle Oberon, the film actress, died on November 23 at the age of 68. Discovered by the producer Alexander Korda, whom she later married, Merle Oberon became a leading lady of the British cinema in the 1930s and subsequently a successful career in Hollywood. She was noted for her striking looks—a smooth oval face dominated by almond eyes—and if she left few memorable performances she did demand the ordinary filmgoer's demand for glamour. From around 1930 her film appearances became rare and after her third marriage, to a wealthy Mexican industrialist, she turned a new reputation as an international hostess, entertaining the famous from royalty downwards in her luxurious home in Acapulco.

She was born Estelle O'Brien in Tasmania on February 19, 1911, and was educated in India. With a girl friend she made an early entrance into show business by playing the piano and giving song recitals at the Railway Institute at Lahore. She came to Britain at the age of 17, working as a dressmaker at the Café de Paris and began to pick up jobs as a film extra. She was spotted by Korda, who gave her a screen test and, later, a five-year contract and changed her name to Merle Oberon. Her first important film was one that Korda himself directed, *The Private Life of Henry VIII* (1933), in which she played Anne Boleyn, Charles Laughton's King. It was followed by *The Private Life of Don Juan*—the last film of Douglas Fairbanks senior—and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* with Leslie Howard.

She was to have been the leading lady in one of Korda's most ambitious and expensive projects, a version of the Robert Graves novel, *I Claudius*, which had Charles Laughton as Emperor Claudius and Merle Oberon as his wife, Calpurnia. But the film was never made.

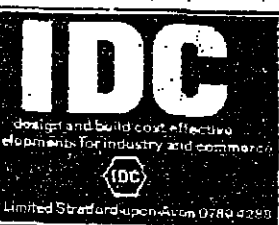
She had, meanwhile, established herself in Hollywood. She was in *Folies Bergères* with Maurice Chevalier, *The Dark Angel* with Fredric March, and *Three Men in a Cradle* with Miriam Hopkins. Back in England, she made a couple of light comedies for Korda, of which the second was *The Day After Tomorrow* with Laurence Olivier. She starred with Olivier again in a Hollywood version of *Wuthering Heights*, directed in 1939 by William Wyler, but her Cathy was regarded as lightweight. In the same year she married Alexander Korda and they worked in Hollywood through the war. At this time Merle Oberon averaged two and three film a year, a mid-range woman Lubitsch comedy, *That Uncertain Feeling*, to an assortment of black melodramas and of the most famous bad film of all time, *A Song to Remember*, in which she played Josefine, Marlon Brando's Napoleon. *Desire* and *Signum* Roberg's lyric writer in a film biography of the composer called *Deep in my Heart*, in which she played the composer's wife, the Hollywood composer, Lucien Ballard, marry a Mexican steel tycoon Bruno Pagliai. In 1957, she more or less abandoned cinema to lead the life of a socialite. The couple's late parties were attended by celebrities from all walks of life from the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Charles to Humphrey Bogart and Noel Coward.

She was seen briefly in a popular film of the 1960s, *It's a Wonderful Life*, but her starring role in a Mexican film *Intervista*, in 1973, represented something of a comeback. She played a middle-aged woman who falls for a younger man and she not only acted in the film but produced it and helped with the editing. It was well received by the critics. Two years later, after the breakup of her last marriage with Laurence Olivier, she starred in a popular film of the 1960s, *It's a Wonderful Life*, but her starring role in a Mexican film *Intervista*, in 1973, represented something of a comeback. She played a middle-aged woman who falls for a younger man and she not only acted in the film but produced it and helped with the editing. It was well received by the critics. 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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS



**Stock markets**  
FT Ind. 408.6  
FT Gilt 84.48  
**Sterling**  
\$2.100  
Index 69.2  
**Dollar**  
Index 87.00  
**Gold**  
\$322.5 an ounce  
**3-month money**  
Inter-bank 16 1/2 to 17  
Euro \$ 14 9/16 to 15  
14 11/16  
**Friday's close**

### IN BRIEF

### War risk premiums for oil ships

Insurance additional underwriting premiums for a voyage to Gulf has been doubled in addition, shipowners now negotiate a further premium if they want to the blocking and trap-risk should any part of sea be closed.

Through the Straits of Hormuz, the entrance to the Persian Gulf, the war risk business is now led by Lloyd's, the company market moved to.

War Riskers' War Riskers' Committee decided to add a list of areas excluded from the war risk trading war's in August after fears of a against tankers by the Liberation Organisation.

There is further reason for mounting tension in the East as a result of the war in Iran and the threat to United States of military action if the embassy hostages are harmed.

### Wars with Comecon

Wilhelm Haferkamp, the German Economic Community's foreign affairs officer, will begin three days in Moscow today to open up links between the Community and the East.

None of the 10 Comecon members have established relations with the Community, though four, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, have worked out arrangements on trade and with Czechoslovakia, oil sales.

### Materials forum set up

Materials forum has been set up by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Mining Metallurgy, Metallurgists and Metals Society, to examine the future availability of materials which are vital to the economy.

The forum will aim to advise on economics, technology and technical aspects of materials, and in particular energy conservation, conservation.

### Castings pact

The Foundries & Engineering Midlands group is to set up an iron castings manufacturing company with George, a leading European casting group. The terms of the pact, signed on October 1, are dependent on the proposals being referred to the policies and Mergers Commission.

### African oil drilling

Italy will begin negotiations on December 3 with North Africa and European oil companies interested in drilling for oil off the coast of Libya.

Mr. Ken Ratnayake, of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, has been invited to bid for groups of blocks located at the Pedro Banks off the coast of Guyana.

### For E Germany

Germany is to import 100,000 cars for the first time and sell them for more than 38,000 marks (about £10) each, nearly three times their price in the West.

Germany's vehicle import company, 500 Citroen and 500 Ford medium-range family is had been ordered.

### Group in India

Mr. Royce, who employed people, yesterday announced the formation of a y-owned subsidiary company named the Royce Group, with an office in New Delhi.

The new company is intended to strengthen ties with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Burma.

## BSC plans more redundancies in reviving 1976 agreement

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

The British Steel Corporation is preparing a crash programme of substantial redundancies, which is expected to meet strong union opposition.

The company on top of the recent decision to close down iron and steel making at Shotton and at Corby, involving the loss of about 10,000 jobs, and BSC's demand last week for 2,500 redundancies in the Port Talbot works by the end of March. A thousand more white-collar jobs are threatened at the South Wales site, and if all the redundancies are implemented the plant's labour force will be cut from 12,500 to 9,000 over the next four months.

BSC's need to break even by the end of March, and its over-capacity at a time of reduced demand for steel, have prompted its latest plans to revive an agreement it negotiated with steel industry unions nearly four years ago.

Both BSC, which this week will reveal a half-year loss of about £150m, and the unions committed themselves to creating a profitable, high-wage, high-productivity industry, comparable with its European competitors.

Substantial labour reductions have been made but more are needed if BSC is to meet the Government's break-even target in March.

BSC's present steel-making capacity is about 2.5 million tonnes a year, but the latest forecasts suggest that 1.7 million tonnes a year will be more than adequate. Even if agreement can be reached for the closure of Shotton and Corby, the corporation will still be left with a surplus capacity of more than two million tonnes a year—equivalent to about £140m a year in overheads.

BSC is unlikely to seek a complete shutdown of a major steel-making site, but the attempt to achieve international manning levels and improve productivity is expected to lead to a reorganisation of activities at night, Mr. William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said that the January 1976 agreement was "as dead as a doornail".

Mr. Sims, who is also chairman of the TUC steel industry consultative committee, said:

## Traders seek decision on electronic checkouts

By Our Commercial Editor

Retail trade associations are pushing for a decision on an inter-bank committee for an early decision on technical standards for the interim generation of checkout machines.

The banks are still some way from making final decisions on transactions in which a plastic card, together with the input of a customer's own personal identification number would replace cash, cheques or even present-day credit cards.

The common standards are being sought so that checkout machines can be made adaptable to the electronic transfer of funds, and so that traders could be faced with scrapping non-compatible machines.

If standards are agreed, manufacturers already producing new generation electronic checkouts could make a few sales for easy and comparatively cheap conversions.

It is almost a year since talks on electronic transfer began between the banks and the retail trade, and initially there had been hopes that the new would start point-of-sale trials by early next year. It could now be up to a year.

But retailers are working to a tighter schedule for setting up compatibility standards because of speeded up plans to bring in electronic checkouts. At first they are working to mini-computers, and soon afterwards they will be equipped with the additional refinement of laser scanning of goods.

The problems being caused by the switch could mean that on an optimistic estimate it would be the middle 1980s before a full-scale system could be operating.

## Business School says recession will deepen

By Our Economics Staff

The British economy will suffer a serious recession next year, according to the latest of a series of gloomy forecasts from the London Business School.

The school's Centre for Economic Forecasting is one of the leading private forecasters, and Professor Terry Burns, its present director, is to become the Government's chief economist adviser in January.

The latest forecast is slightly less pessimistic than that produced by the Treasury last week and shows a fall of 1.1 per cent in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) next year.

The school believes that the recession could last until 1981 or 1982. It supports the Government's present tough line on monetary policy, but is very critical of the Conservative's first budget. This was too expansionary and the rise in VAT was inflationary.

Continuing high pay settlements leading to high inflation will be an important cause of the drop in output next year, the forecast says. It is likely to take some time for the Government's monetary policy to affect wage settlements as wage bargainers probably expect the policy to be relaxed eventually.

The school forecasts a considerably higher level of Government borrowing than the Treasury predicted last week. The school expects it to rise from £3,000m in the present financial year to £11,200m in 1980-81. The Government's target is £8,300m.

The Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) will rise from 5.1 per cent to 6.1 per cent of GDP at present prices. The Government expects it to remain about the same.

The school strongly advocates the publication of a medium-term financial plan. It believes the Government should make its economic policy on the basis of a medium-term view of the economy consistent with a steady reduction in the rate of inflation.

The Government should set a monetary target and then follow a consistent policy on taxes and spending.

The forecasters admit that the link between the money supply and the rate of inflation is neither simple nor immediate. However, they believe the growth in money supply must be slowed if inflation is to be brought down.

They argue that in the long term the Government's borrowing is a crucial determinant of the money supply. They believe it is wrong to attempt to square an expansionary fiscal policy with a tight money policy through very high interest rates.

Mr. Anthony Frodsham, Director General of the EEF, estimates that the recent engineering industry strikes cost the industry about a 10 per cent loss of sales, probably worth about £300m, and a 5 per cent loss of orders. It is expected that half this business will be lost permanently.

## Jobs warning over use of microchips

From Peter Norman  
in Brussels

The increasing use of micro-electronics will lead to a loss of jobs in some industries and services in Western Europe in the 1980s, and will contribute to higher unemployment, according to a European trade union study published here today.

The study, prepared by the European Trade Union Institute, says microelectronics will affect most seriously the manufacturing, finance, and transport and communications sectors.

Although the study does not provide a quantitative assessment of the decline in the number of jobs expected, it suggests that existing forecasts are too optimistic. It argues that a recent study, produced by the Independent Institute of Statistics, which forecasts unemployment at 8.7 million in the EEC by 1983 and 10.6 million by 1990 against 6 million at present, is wrong. The study assumes job displacement caused by using micro-electronics in the service sector will be offset by employment growth in electronic data processing.

The ETUI, which is the research organization of the

## Gloomy assessment for medium term growth prospects in the economy

## Treasury study throws doubt on hopes for further substantial cuts in personal taxation

By Caroline Atkinson  
and David Blake

Medium term prospects for the economy after gloomy Treasury assessments throw into doubt the Government's ability to cut taxes again during the course of this Parliament.

The forecasts suggest that it may be impossible to reconcile cuts in income tax with the policy of steadily reducing public borrowing.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, said on television yesterday that the Government still intended to reduce the burden of taxation but he admitted that progress towards this goal would be intermittent rather than continuous.

He also delivered another warning to unions that high pay settlements could lead to heavy unemployment. He refused to comment on whether the Ford settlement of 21.5 per cent was excessive.

He emphasized that if average pay settlements came anywhere near that level there would be hundreds of bankruptcies and extra jobless.

The Chancellor ruled out a pay freeze early next year, and reiterated the Government's opposition to incomes policies.

However, he said that he would like to find a middle way between an incomes policy and free market competition. "Irresponsible" collective bargaining. No new forum is likely to be set up for tripartite pay discussions for some time.

When the Government cut income tax in the June Budget, it believed that it was taking the first step on a road to much lower tax rates. A standard rate of 25p in the pound was in ministers' minds although this looks increasingly unlikely.

Yesterday, on London Weekend's Weekend World, Sir Geoffrey was keen to emphasize how much had already been done to cut income tax than to hold out promises of further big cuts. He said that changes in capital taxes would probably take priority over cuts in personal tax.

It has been a severe blow to the Government to realize how limited room for tax cuts would be next year. It is even more devastating to be told by Treasury economists now how difficult it will be to cut taxes in later years.

The Government's search for ways to cut taxes will inevitably sharpen disagreements between ministers over public spending cuts. It is already clear that there is a widening gulf between ministers who do not want further sharp cuts in planned programmes and others who want to cut public spending as much as possible to allow income tax cuts or lower government borrowing.

Sir Geoffrey said yesterday that control of public spending was essential to keep the money supply under control.

The depth of the problem has been brought home because of studies in Whitehall

of a medium term financial plan. Ministers had expressed interest in a plan to reduce the money supply, public borrowing and bring down the rate of inflation.

Sir Geoffrey yesterday hinted that he was now less convinced of the wisdom of such a plan. He affirmed that he was still committed to bringing down money growth over the next few years, but said that he was more concerned with fulfilling the latest published target for this year than with working out precise figures for the future.

Several versions of a medium term plan have now been produced by the Treasury. They all suggest that it would be extremely difficult to produce an acceptable plan to provide for a significant fall in the rate of inflation.

The plan could be held up, anyway, by the need to square ministers outside the Treasury who may not wish to have their hands tied to medium term targets.

It now seems quite likely that the plan may only be published if at all, with the Budget in the spring, rather than early next year with the next public spending White Paper.

The recent monetary crisis emphasized to the Government how difficult it is to control the money supply. This has prompted it to re-examine the methods of control, and a joint Treasury-Bank of England discussion paper is due to be published on the subject.

There is still some doubt about whether this will be published before Christmas, and now whether it will be. It will certainly look at various forms of monetary base control and could involve big changes in the whole system of monetary control that have been advocated by some monetarists.

Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister, has been sympathetic to the idea of such a change. However, it appears that she hoped a change to a monetary base would make it easier to lower interest rates while still curbing credit growth. She may turn against the change as she realizes that this is far from true.

The only minister to have begun studying this issue in detail is Mr. Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Many officials believe that it will be hard to get agreement on the discussion document before Christmas.

North Sea oil revenues will go some way to help in the early 1980s. They are now expected to be significantly higher than earlier estimates. However, the slow growth in the economy—put at between 1 and 1.5 per cent over the next five years—will build down revenues from other taxes.

Officials have been looking at the consequences of modest reductions in money growth of about half per cent a year. Attempts to make bigger reductions would lead to even worse conflict between the money targets and the Government's wish to cut taxes.

## Mechanical engineering sector expecting to experience 10 per cent drop in sales next year

By Edward Townsend

Britain's vital mechanical engineering sector is facing another 12 months of contraction and the Engineering Employers' Federation, in its most pessimistic survey to date, is predicting a 10 per cent drop in sales in 1980.

In what amounts to a catalogue of depression, the EEF's latest short-term trade published today presents a picture of declining exports, higher costs and prices, decreasing world competitiveness, further cuts in the industry's labour force and a worsening of the shortage of skilled craftsmen.

Mr. Anthony Frodsham, Director General of the EEF, estimates that the recent engineering industry strikes cost the industry about a 10 per cent loss of sales, probably worth about £300m, and a 5 per cent loss of orders. It is expected that half this business will be lost permanently.

The report's forecasts on both the home and export fronts take into account a certain level of industrial disruption, but it is clear that sudden outbreak of labour unrest this winter would depress further the estimated decline.

"Home market sales and orders are expected to decline as the economy stagnates, industrial investment falls back and public sector investment remains depressed," the report says.

"Mechanical engineering firms which depend directly or indirectly upon public sector customers may be especially hard hit by the reductions in public expenditure plans. If these reductions fall—as they have on previous occasions—mainly on external purchases rather than within the public authorities' own organizations."

The report stresses that although growth in the total volume of world trade in mechanical engineering products is still expected, the industry's share is likely to fall as cost competitiveness remains poor in the face of a strong pound and inflation.

The overtime ban and a series of one and two-day strikes also hit the domestic industry's ability to combat imports, which are forecast to have surged since 1979 compared to the industry's stagnating net sales



Mr. Anthony Frodsham: worried about declining exports.

hit sector is the construction equipment industry, whose orders will be curtailed particularly by the cuts in public spending. Conversely, mining machinery manufacturers are expected to benefit from more buoyant demand from the National Coal Board and increased exports to the United States.

Total employment in the mechanical engineering industry fell by 2.5 per cent—a loss of 23,000 jobs—in the 12 months to June to a new low level of 902,000. More labour shedding has occurred since then, and will continue in 1980.

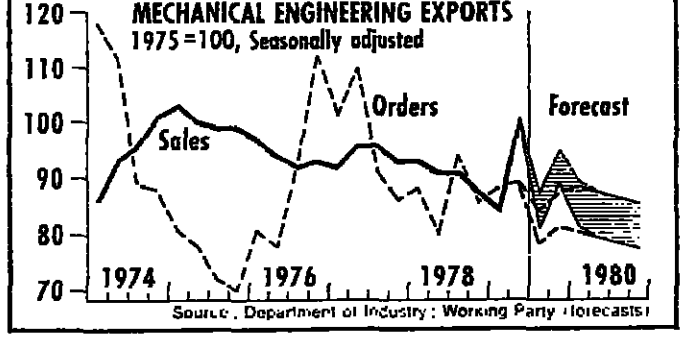
Despite the contraction, the average level of output per man in the first half of this year was about four per cent lower than in the same period of 1975.

The report says that new home orders in the last three months of the year are expected to fall by 11 per cent below the first half of 1979. "This reflects the rapid decline in business confidence, manufacturing activity and investment which is already becoming apparent and which has probably been accelerated by the high level of interest rates."

In another survey at the weekend, from stockbrokers Phillips & Drew, it is forecast that profits in mechanical engineering will fall by 15 per cent this year against a rise of eight per cent in industry generally, chiefly because of strikes.

"Given that the next six months is likely to see a series of dismal results from engineering companies and no doubt a few surprises, the sector is likely to remain both nervous and depressed," it says.

In Britain, probably the worst-



## Jobs warning over use of microchips

From Peter Norman  
in Brussels

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The study, prepared by the European Trade Union Institute, says microelectronics will affect most seriously the manufacturing, finance, and transport and communications sectors.

Although the study does not provide a quantitative assessment of the decline in the number of jobs expected, it suggests that existing forecasts are too optimistic. It argues that a recent study, produced by the Independent Institute of Statistics, which forecasts unemployment at 8.7 million in the EEC by 1983 and 10.6 million by 1990 against 6 million at present, is wrong. The study assumes job displacement caused by using micro-electronics in the service sector will be offset by employment growth in electronic data processing.

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## Latest polls show energy crisis is now an issue of prime national importance

## United States wakes up to its worsening fuel problem

Attitudes in the United States towards the oil crisis appear to have changed dramatically. New opinion polls show that more than half of all Americans see the energy issue as one of prime national importance. In 1978 fewer than 20 per cent held this view.

Mr. Pat Caddell, a consultant to Westinghouse and an unofficial adviser to President Carter, said there has been a "staggering rise" in public understanding of the energy problem and this should at last make it easier for the United States Government to move ahead with energy legislation.

The Iranian crisis has undoubtedly reinforced public concern. Mr. Caddell said that more than 45 per cent of Americans realize that the

United States is heavily dependent on oil imports, while one year ago fewer than one third knew their country imported any oil at all.

More than ever now accept the need to reduce environmental standards to boost national oil output and off-shore oil drilling and they expect substantial oil price increases in future. They also support large-scale government spending to increase synthetic fuel production. "The shortage this year did bring home a message," Mr. Caddell said.

But as Americans come to understand more about energy, they still seem to be as hostile as ever towards the large oil companies.

per cent believe the oil companies prevented the progress of restrictive energy laws.

Eighty per cent believe the companies work in the interest of the United States, while 55 per cent believe they work in the interest of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Nationalization of the oil companies is supported by 34 per cent, and relatively few blame President Carter for the oil crisis. The hostility towards the oil companies runs very deep.

The incident earlier this year at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania has produced changes in public attitudes towards this

form of power, although most people still see nuclear reactors as necessary and many believe nuclear power will become America's prime energy source in the next 10 years.

More than 90 per cent remember the accident more than six months afterwards and more than ever, although still a minority, are firmly opposed to the construction of new nuclear plants.

When it comes to the long-term outlook, they are clearly enthusiastic about solar power. "Solar is the public's great hope," Mr. Caddell said.

Latest polls show that there is now far more concern about the depressing effects of dependence on foreign oil in the United States-domestic eco-

nomy and far more understanding of the relationship between energy policy and the value of the dollar.

Mr. Caddell said that the dollar was viewed widely as representing the country in the same way as the United States flag and its demise was seen as indicative of the severity of American economic problems.

The White House has been informed about Mr. Caddell's findings and tougher energy conservation proposals now seem likely.

With public attitudes such as these it would seem that Congress no longer has excuses to avoid energy legislation.

Frank Vogl

## Price control powers are too wide, say retailers

By Derek Harris

The Retail Consortium has attacked the wide powers for price control in the Competition Bill, fearing that they are less restricted than those in the old Price Commission legislation.

In an attempt to build some safeguards into the proposed laws, under which investigations will be made of anti-competitive practices, the consortium is supporting a series of amendments to the Bill now in its Commons committee stage.

The Bill lays down a remedy for anti-competitive practices the use of powers set out in the Fair Trading Act of 1973, which was aimed at monopolies, and this is the focus of the consortium's attack.

The Fair Trading Act allows for orders to regulate prices of goods or services in situations which the Monopolies and Mergers Commission believes are operating, or could operate, against the public interest.

These proposed powers are in addition to another clause in the Competition Bill which would allow Mr. John Nott, Secretary of State, to authorize the Director General of Fair Trading to investigate prices or charges of "major public concern".

Mr. Nott, who in abolishing the Price Commission, criticized its procedures, believes that temporary price restriction, emphasized that this new power to act on prices would be used only in exceptional circumstances.

Mr. Nott and Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, have a responsibility for competition policy, clearly want to leave room in the legislation for a pragmatic approach that would allow a balance to be struck between the OFT and Monopolies Commission.

But Mr. Richard Weir, Director of the Retail Consortium, fears that such widely drawn legislation not only brings uncertainties into business planning, but could create a dangerous situation if a more interventionist Government came into power.

Mr. Weir said: "The powers derived from the Fair Trading Act constitute a powerful set of measures, with power to regulate prices without safeguards or time limits such as were incorporated in the Price Commission legislation."

"It gives the Monopolies Commission power, with the Secretary of State, virtually to write new prices legislation independent of Parliament."

The aims of the amendments to the Bill, being put forward this week by Mr. Michael Newman, Conservative MP for Havering, Romford, include a clearer definition of the public interest so that various safeguards would hedge the price restriction powers.

Assessment of an anti-competitive practice would then have to take account of matters like public safety, effects on employment, benefits to the public and exports performance. There are similarities between these and the criteria to which the Price Commission latterly had to work.

The Government hopes legislation would allow investigation of retailers and suppliers, which could help small businesses by removing unfair trading discrimination.

## THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Alia \$	2.315	1.95	Netherlands Gld	4.44	4.21
Am Frs	29.89	27.00	Norway Kr	11.23	10.73
Am Scs	65.25	61.75	Portugal Esc	112.00	107.00
£ S	2.60	2.53	South Africa RA	1.93	1.80
£ N	11.65	11.15	Spain Ptas	148.75	141.75
£ Mk	8.52	8.12	Sweden Kr	9.40	9.00
£ Fr	9.25	8.82	Switzerland Fr	3.76	3.54
£ D	97.99	92.00	Yugoslavia Ddr	48.00	45.00
£ Hong \$	11.10	10.50			
£ Y	1840.00	1755.00			
	560.00	535.00			



MANAGEMENT

# Lessons learnt in the United States

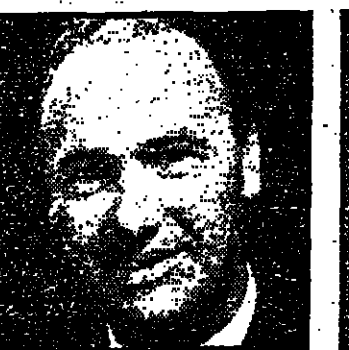
Thomas Tilling, a conglomerate if ever there was one, has spent £108m on acquisitions within the United States over the past two years, building up the United States proportion of group assets from 2 per cent to 25 per cent.

It has, according to Francis Black, the finance director, a standard management policy. "We take a lot of care in making acquisitions. We get their whole-hearted agreement—if not, the whole deal is off. We buy good management. We believe in having the right people, and leaving them to get on with the job."

So in the case of Clarkson Industries, which Tilling bought in the first quarter of 1978 for \$25.2m, the management team is almost exactly as it was before the company changed hands. "The senior man has since retired," says Mr Black, "but his successor was already lined up for the job."

Clarkson is nominally a subsidiary of Thomas Tilling Inc, but in fact a full operating subsidiary of the United Kingdom parent, in line with its normal policy. Tilling has appointed one of its own executives to act as non-executive chairman, and he acts as channel of communication between parent and subsidiary.

"He sees and monitors the monthly accounts," says Mr Black. "When we go in and investigate the company in the first place, we go through the books—we make sure they are adequate reporting procedures." The non-executive



Three British company chairmen with interests in America: (left to right) Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson of Istock Johnson, Mr Graham Wilkins of Beecham, and Sir Robert Taylor of Thomas Tilling.

With British companies now free to invest where they will, and the pound rising against the dollar, it's probable that the space of acquisitions in the United States will continue to be a hot topic. We have been talking to companies which have bought on the other side of the Atlantic, about the management problems such acquisitions create; and two things emerge very clearly from their comments. First, that it is

essential to investigate the strength of the existing management—and worth paying extra if it's good. And second, that the managers of United States companies plagued by parents or shareholders more anxious to retrench than to expand, are often very glad to become part of an aggressive, outgoing international group. Here are the comments of some of them.

chairman also acts as firefighter in an emergency—for example, it's his responsibility to find and appoint a new managing director if the existing one is run over by a bus.

Policies of Beecham, the pharmaceutical and consumer products giant, are also quite consistent. To the maximum extent possible, subsidiaries are managed by nationals of the countries concerned. And as a general rule Beecham only acquires companies where the management is strong already.

Beecham's policy is to slot acquisitions into one of the two divisions—pharmaceutical or consumer products—directly in each area. Thus Calgon, the United States consumer product business that it acquired for \$81m in April 1977, has now disappeared as a separate entity (though the brand name remains).

In the process Calgon's sales force was merged with that of Beecham's existing United States consumer products division, a business which necessitated some retraining and some

redundancies; but most of the Calgon management are still with the group.

Sorting out the problems of integration takes, according to Beecham, "a matter of months". And the worst of them relate, not to human, but to mechanical sensibilities: the computers.

Istock Johnson, the brick manufacturer, is in some ways the most interesting of non-acquisitive selection, partly because it is the least experienced. Istock made its first acquisition in the United States in June 1978, as a result of, of course, the need to exploit what it saw as a wide open opportunity for the application of its highly-developed marketing skills.

The acquisition in question, Marion Rick, was a "Cinderella subsidiary", a volume producer, but old-fashioned and parochial in its design and selling. "At \$8m," says Paul Hyde-Thomson, Istock's chairman, "we knew that we were getting cheap assets and this management."

But he concedes that they didn't realise how thin until they were under their wing. Faced with the necessity of recruiting new top management—a business which took 10 months—Istock seconded one of its own executives to look after the United States company meantime; but Mr Thomson accepts that it wasn't a perfect solution.

Brickmaking is a very early business," he says. "You should have national running it—people who can get on with the locals." Istock has solved its problem with the acquisition, the \$21m of Glen Gery Corporation, another brickmaker with the same capacity but much stronger management, into which Marion will be merged.

Mr Thomson is happy about the strategic decision to buy in the United States, but "perhaps we should have investigated the management further."

Adrienne Gleeson

## Society and profits by new NEB knight

Last week's controversy over the National Enterprise Board and Rolls-Royce saw Sir Arthur Knight, who retired as chairman of Courtauld at the end of the year, emerge as the new NEB chairman. Recently, at a conference organized by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, Sir Arthur set out his views on the importance of profitability and on what should be the fundamental aims of corporate bodies. "Specifically he dealt at length with the issue of non-executive directors."

"The first fundamental, I believe, is that the duty of the board is to the company and not to any interest group."

"Second, the board must fulfil that duty by treating with and satisfying a whole range of interest groups."

"Third, the board cannot hope to satisfy any one of these interest groups and to attempt to do so would be self-defeating. It is the duty of the board, properly interpreted, is the test of performance, and when I say test of performance, I mean test of performance in terms of society's interests."

"I see it, at which the activities of businessmen or boards of directors cross most closely with the interests of society as a whole."

"And, therefore, this proposition, that profitability is the test of performance, is fundamental to my position. But the proper interpretation of profitability must include some regard to the relevant time scales."

"For example, I had a limited period as non-executive director of Rolls-Royce, and learned that in the aero-engine field the time cycle for a new product is 15 years from the beginning to conception, to development, to launching and so on."

"Some of the shareholder pressures are sometimes too short term, and that, of course is one reason why shareholders cannot always be wholly satisfied."

"Indeed, it is a reason which sometimes leads one to wonder whether—as in the aero-engine case—the private sector can cope with this. It is not a case for nationalization or, as in the United States, continued government subsidies."

"In the private sector these shareholder pressures towards profitability that come from any other interest group, and that's the reason why I say that if shareholders didn't exist they would have to be invented."

"It is possible to conceive of other forms of organizing ourselves, by cooperatives or nationalization and so on. But none of these alternatives have



Sir Arthur Knight, new chairman of the National Enterprise Board.

yet been as successful as the private sector or show any promise of being so, and it would be revolutionary in every sense of that word if workers began to see long-term profitability as their objective. It would lead to social changes which would make most of what we have been talking about take on a wholly different perspective."

Shareholder pressures for long-term profitability are the key to a more successful private sector. You will gather from what I said that this is not a matter of legalities; it follows logically from the social and economic structure within which we live. But one has to recognize that all too often our arrangements have not been made to work properly, and there has been substance in the gibe that boards of directors have become self-perpetuating oligarchies and that inadequate performance has been allowed to continue for too long."

The specific points I wish to raise about non-executives are: First, there is the point about critical mass. Three non-executive directors can be effective in most circumstances; one or two can find it difficult. It's not essential to the argument, but I regard 12 as the ideal size of a directing group for any purpose."

"Parkinson of Parkinsons Law fame once wrote a serious book in which he showed that over the ages, in the East as well as the West, there was a tendency towards managing groups of about 12, and I suppose my critical mass of three non-executives is related to this observation."

"There need be no problem about finding enough good non-executives if it is accepted that executive directors should normally be nominated by the board, and that a non-executive appointment in a non-competing company,

## Paying for the 'outsiders' view

How much should non-executive directors be paid? There is no ready-made formula since there are wide variations in the remuneration of individuals and companies concerned. Yet a satisfactory answer must be found if effective professional executives are to be tempted into boardrooms. The whole question of non-executive directors is the subject of discreet contention. The traditional view is that the sums involved should not be substantial, since this might jeopardize the individual non-executive's independence. Non-executive directors themselves, however, want to receive a fee commensurate with their value to the company.

Some light has been thrown on present practices in this exceedingly shadowy area by two recent publications. A report by consultants Booz-Allen & Hamilton for the Institute of Directors shows fees ranging from a mere £250 to £10,000 p.a.

The real earnings of non-executive directors have fallen substantially behind the increase in the cost of living during the last 10 years. Booz-Allen found that some companies are still paying £2,000 p.a. which they paid 10 years ago. And in some nationalised industries the non-executive directors are paid £1,000 p.a. which was established in the 1940s.

The general level of fees, however, ranges between £2,000 and £5,000, with additional payments made for special duties. Some companies, for instance, pay a consultant's fee in addition to the base director's fee, to increase remuneration above the level permitted by their articles of association.

A monograph produced by the Corporate Consulting Group, which is due to arrive on the desks of leading chairmen sometime next week, states firmly that contributing

non-executive directors now usually require fees upwards of £5,000 p.a.

The key word here is "contributing". There has been a tendency among some companies to move directors to the non-executive category once they reach normal retiring age. The Allen found that whereas the average retiring age for executive directors is 65 (although increasingly 62 or 63 is being introduced), that for non-executives is 70.

Furthermore, a high proportion—64 per cent—of non-executive directors above normal retirement age, were former directors of the same company who presumably have some difficulty in contributing to an "outsiders' view."

Another factor determining earnings is the amount of time involved. The general consensus is that non-executive directors should, typically, spend about 10 per cent of their time, or two days a month, with a company.

It is argued that if the non-executive gives more than 20 per cent of his time there is a danger that his objectivity will be affected.

Moreover, it would be impractical for the chairman of one company to serve on the boards of more than two or three others. The day of the "part-time" non-executive director with 10 or more boards is disappearing.

Partly because, traditionally, the entry age is high, it is not normal for non-executive directors in private industry to be appointed for a fixed term. The Corporate Consulting Group, however, argues that there should be an opportunity to review the appointment after three to five years. A balance of continuity and freshness can then be maintained by phasing appointments.

Patricia Tisdall

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Why industry should put a higher price on engineers

From Mr M. Littlewood  
Sir, Patricia Tisdall's article (November 19) on the salaries accorded to professional engineers is of importance, for it clearly expresses the paradox that the wealth creators are the lowest paid. A crazy situation.

The low salary structure of engineers has the effect of discouraging the brightest brains from entering the profession. The result is only too apparent: British products tend to be of inferior design to those of foreign competitors and they are manufactured at too high a price.

Engineers rarely reach the top positions in industry (a peculiarly British feature), for the cleverest engineers have been lured off to an early age into the better paying professions.

A further corollary of the pay problem is that the ambitious young engineer often changes course in his twenties into marketing, civil service and the like just when he is becoming useful as a designer, production engineer, etc. Until engineers' salaries are at the top of the league table, we will continue to decline as a manufacturing nation.

If I can just add one paragraph concerning Mr Park's thoughts about accountants (Management, November 19), it seems to me that the media are largely to blame for this confusion. A headline such as

"250,000 engineers to strike for shorter working week" in the popular press, one example, is roughly translated, what that newspaper is trying to tell us is that industrial action is threatened by 250,000 members of the AUEW who are technicians, fitters and other craftsmen and by no stretch of the imagination can they be regarded as professional engineers.

With regard to the general management of a company, the engineer can readily be trained in management and accounting skills (after all, this magical knowledge is a very superficial to that of most of his colleagues). The accountant etc can never be converted into engineers.

If we are prepared to pay the right sort of salary to our engineers, we will once again become powerful in the industrial world; it will of course take a decade or so to achieve this result. Let's start now.

Yours faithfully,  
M. LITTLEWOOD,  
Managing Director,  
Lomb International Limited,  
Whitchurch,  
Ross-on-Wye.

From Mr R. E. Horley  
Sir, Over the years there has been a lot of talk about the importance of the engineer, and the public misconception as to the role and status of the engineer in industry.

I am afraid the media are largely to blame for this confusion. A headline such as

"250,000 engineers to strike for shorter working week" in the popular press, one example, is roughly translated, what that newspaper is trying to tell us is that industrial action is threatened by 250,000 members of the AUEW who are technicians, fitters and other craftsmen and by no stretch of the imagination can they be regarded as professional engineers.

I regret, Sir, that *The Times* itself is no exception to this observation and in *Business News* (November 14) you show a photograph with the caption an engineer presses the button. This man is quite obviously an operator, not an engineer. Engineers do not press buttons; as Doctor R. Feinberg suggests in his letter, a photograph of an engineer can be described as a person who "invents and designs, plans and manages technological projects."

Misuse of the engineer title such as in the example I have quoted tends to confuse an already confused readership even further. There are many people better qualified than I to provide you with an accurate definition and I can only suggest that some guidelines be issued to your staff as to when it is appropriate to use this title and when it is not.

R. HORLEY,  
HOKLEY,  
Ponds House,  
Hurst Green,  
Sussex.

## Reviving the British Productivity Council

From Mr Bertram White  
Sir, Long experience of the history and work of the British Productivity Council prompts me to cast some doubt on the proposal of Mr Frank Nixon (November 17) to revive that body.

I was a member of the BPC for eight years, its chairman in 1968-69 and I presided over a committee of the council on which government was represented, which, after long study, recommended the continuation of the BPC in its current form, with increasing productivity and the government grant was withdrawn.

The BPC had been founded to carry on the work of its highly successful predecessor, the Anglo-American Council on Productivity, that body, set up in 1948 with encouragement from the late Sir Stafford Cripps and generously financed from Marshall Aid funds, represented trade unions and employers on an equal footing.

Its work had the enthusiastic support of all its constituents in setting out to search for the reasons for the high productivity of the United States. Some 66 teams from British unions and universities, the writer was a member of two of them—were dispatched on long visits to the United States to report, each in its own field, and to recommend how we in Britain could equal or emulate the performance of America's industry.

The reports of the teams were widely promulgated, some half million copies were distributed, and equally widely acclaimed.

It has been found that yellow is the colour that the eye registers first in the light and that red is the colour registered first by the brain. Therefore on roads, during the day, yellow is better than red for catching the "quickest" if one is looking for a phone box.

Hence the use of "yellow cabs" in New York and experiments with yellow ambulances in some cities.

May I add that I am delighted to have you back, Yours faithfully,  
MRS J. PHILIP-JONES,  
6 rue de Savoie,  
75006 Paris, France.

The project ended with the ending of Marshall Aid, and the growing and understandable fears of the trade unions that high productivity implied of necessity high and continuing unemployment. The AACF had declared in its final report: "Only through increasing productivity can we maintain and expand the benefits of our way of life."

By 1969, that conviction had long disappeared and the question is how to recreate it. How can employers, trade unions and government find the means to deal effectively and humanely with the short-term problems of rising productivity, so as to gain the long-term benefits of higher employment and higher living standards that history teaches are the price to be paid?

If this could be done, and the confidence of the trade unions restored, then it would be simple to set up appropriate organizations of employers and unions, to monitor the work.

But without a new spirit there would be little value in restoring the British Productivity Council.

Yours faithfully,  
BERTRAM WHITE,  
Rock Hill House,  
Rock Hill,  
London SE26 6SW,  
November 19.

## Economics of services to the home

From Mr R. P. Elvy  
Sir, You have to have lived abroad to realize how extraordinarily blind we are to the economic facts of life. We seem to take for granted personal services that we can do in no way afford. The two classic examples are those bastions of our costly, supported but miserably costly lifestyle, the postman and the milkman.

The postal services in this country must at best be considered to be on the verge of collapse. If the Government cannot accept this, then they should note that the service of the milkman have already been recognized by the public as being very difficult to obtain and they have changed many areas to a delivery every other day.

Why don't the controlling bodies of these two venerable services in other lands face facts and recognize that sooner or later we have to revert to an economical style which has been operated for at least a generation in many other countries. The gas meter, the rest of which are fed into the computer and previous estimate are adjusted to actual.

In cases where an over-estimate is made, an immediate transfer is made to the householder's credit. A quick estimate indicates that by using this system, our two public utilities could reduce their combined administration cost by 78 per cent.

We just don't seem to have the mentality for productivity. Yours faithfully,  
R. P. ELVY,  
Locbrite (UK) Limited,  
Waltham,  
Waltham Garden City,  
Harrowfordshire AL7 1JB.

## British bees and EEC sugar

From the General Secretary of the Beekeepers' Association  
Sir, Your Agricultural Correspondent (November 19) refers to EEC proposals to reduce sugar production in the member states to the extent of something useful with their surplus sugar, but were prevented by the aforementioned regulation. That particular year the EEC grant to beekeepers was not taken up by any of the member states and was a total loss to us.

The Honey Party in Brussels contains representatives of the beekeepers in various member states, and through the National Farmers' Union, to which we are affiliated, I asked that a meeting be convened for the purpose of proposing action to amend the rule as it applied to us and which barred us effectively from receiving the very aid which it was intended we should have. At that stage I believed that the grant would not have been made available unless the Commission wished us to benefit. Another subject which I felt we should have discussed was *Varroa*, a disease which was the subject of the Bee Bill, the second reading of which occurred in October.

The chairman of the Honey Party sent back word that he did not consider the subjects warranted a meeting. Sucks bee to us, and the sugar continues to pile up.

The explanation put forward by the Commission for the regulation banning the use of untreated subsidized sugar is the old one about abuse. But there is a perfectly simple and effective method, involving the use of vouchers, which I set out in a letter to the Honey Party.

of allowing the EEC grant to be taken in the form of untreated sugar, which would be treated as "sugar" by the Sugar Intervention Board, who was present at the meeting, pointed out that they would be happy and willing to do something useful with their surplus sugar, but were prevented by the aforementioned regulation. That particular year the EEC grant to beekeepers was not taken up by any of the member states and was a total loss to us.

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Yours faithfully,  
D. WINSLOW,  
Secretary,  
Bee Farmers' Association,  
Rimington Road,  
Ratford,  
Leicestershire,  
November 19.

some time ago, and which has been used in the United Kingdom, and there is another system which we operated during the sugar shortage a few years ago which attracted no complaint from any source. The reply from the Honey Party indicated that they had not heard of the voucher scheme but would take note of it.

It seems that we are left with a regulation which can only be changed constitutionally, that is through the proper channels, which presumably means the Honey Party, but we cannot get a meeting until and unless the chairman wishes to have one. He cannot be contacted directly because we have to operate through the approved national agricultural representative association—the NFU—which has done its best.

The intervention board wants to dispose of surplus sugar but is prevented by the regulation, and commercial beekeepers, after two poor summers and a disastrous winter, during which nearly half the stocks of bees in the United Kingdom were lost, are unable to benefit from a grant which was intended to give us cheap sugar. Presumably the sugar will be sold at knock-down prices to the Russians in due course.

The chairman of the Honey Party is, of course, a Frenchman.

## New towns offer attractive alternative to London

Harassed industrialists, painfully easing their cars through the traffic chaos of suburban London and gloomily contemplating forecasts of rocketing rates, might do worse than tune in to the chances are they will bear a catchy jingle or a quick sketch, seeking to lure them northwards where the grass is greener, the air cleaner, life better and a small army of eager civil servants eager to provide new factories and new houses for workers, to advise, help, and generally take the pain out of industrial and commercial enterprise.

The leading protagonists in the fight for new industry and new people are the government-sponsored development corporations of Northampton and Peterborough. Both were set up in the late 1960s when the areas were designated new towns with the task of accommodating people from already overcrowded London.

The city of Peterborough was designated in 1967 and Northampton a year later. Their populations were 86,000 and 133,000

### Industry in the regions

respectively when expansion programmes started in 1970 and their targets were 160,000 and 173,000 by the mid-1980s. Peterborough is now 119,000 and Northampton is about 154,000. Both development corporations operate in close partnership with their local and county authorities and both have built thousands of houses for rent and sale, miles of new roads and services for the convenience of new industry, new office blocks and new inhabitants.

Neither Peterborough nor Northampton lie in government aided areas and so have to rely on their natural resources to provide incentives to new industry. Top of the list in both cases is communications. The main route to Northampton is the M1 motorway, between London and Birmingham, the main A45

Midlands route to the east coast port of Felixstowe and Harwich passes through it and it is on the London-Glasgow electrified rail line.

Peterborough is on the A1, 80 miles north of London, and on the main east coast rail route. And the town identifies itself as the major growth point nearest to the ports of Harwich, Felixstowe, Kings Lynn and Yarmouth.

Peterborough's unemployment rate is about 5 per cent, just below the national average. It is reckoned that two to three per cent of these are unemployed anyway, and the rest appear in statistics because they are between jobs and not long term unemployed. Peterborough relies on its location, its engineering tradition, and its quality of life to attract new companies. It is shortly to launch a promotional campaign in Chicago where a number of its existing firms have headquarters. Peter-

borough considers it is doing reasonably well. Last year the town exported more than 60 per cent of its manufactured output and claims that almost every new firm reports output up, exports up, profits up and improved labour relations.

Since expansion started, 5,420m of new investment has come to the town and about £250m of that is private investment. Factories, shops, roads and houses worth more than £100m are under construction and £70m of that is funded privately. There have been a few failures but the vast majority of small and large firms going to Peterborough tend to expand in factories from 500 sq ft to 45,000 sq ft provided by the development corporation.

Northampton has been quick off the mark in overseas promotions and has more than 40 foreign companies operating in the town. The development corporation has four employment areas totalling over 800 acres and housing 120 families. The town is developing as a major regional office centre. Unemployment, traditionally low, is now at 3.1 per cent, and

its first-class labour relations record is one of its greatest attractions to incoming companies. More than 60 per cent of newcomers move to Northampton from London.

Mr Basil Bean, general manager of the corporation, has Northampton's geographical location and labour relations record as the reasons for its success. "We are after mobile industry," he said, "and this is now more important than the effect of the new process and the overcrowding."

Mr Bean sees the principal task as trying to maintain a balance between population and employment. "We walk a tightrope between job opportunities on the one hand and housing availability on the other."

Both Northampton and Peterborough admit there is an element of competition between them but prefer to call it healthy rivalry. They have different natural incentives to offer and occasionally help each other. Both appear to be succeeding in their set task.

Ronald Kershaw

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## An advantage for investment trusts

the period since exchange controls abolished, share prices in the investment trust sector have been falling like a stone. The FT-Actuaries index for the last 18 months has collapsed by over 30 points, and the average discount to asset value has widened from about 10 per cent to over 30 per cent.

On the face of it, this is a pretty peculiar state of affairs. The great liberation conferred by the abolition of exchange controls, after all, has more in common with the freedom of institutional investors; and they appear to provide the perfect route for an investor in search of overseas investments. But, in fact, the investment trusts have been reluctant to undertake the investments involved in doing it themselves.

Trusts have, of course, done their utmost to provide the perfect route for an investor in search of overseas investments. But, in fact, the investment trusts have been reluctant to undertake the investments involved in doing it themselves.

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Given freedom to invest abroad without recourse to either the dollar premium or back-to-back loans, it is to be expected that the latter will be allowed to run off, to the benefit of income. In fact, there are signs already that some trusts are arranging for early repayment of this finance.

However, yield alone is not going to rescue this sector from the oblivion to which, from the looks of things, the market is set on consigning it. For most of the past decade the principal problem for investment trust companies has been how to interest the buyers in what—at least in respect of the forward-looking groups—has been a perfectly good product: asset management. Increased specialization is one way of doing it.

As the few investment trusts which have tried this route have proved, increased specialization means increased risks, as well as increased rewards. Freedom from exchange controls increases the risk and reward anyway—for example, by removing the counterbalance to currency performance implicit in the back-to-back loan.

Any investor running a diversified portfolio ought, however, to welcome the opportunities for performance which increased specialization and undiluted currency exposure can provide—without necessarily being prepared to spend the time and energy which such specialization requires.

This, surely, is where the investment trusts ought to be able to profit from the relaxation of exchange controls—though only those which have established a reputation as accomplished specialists already (British Assets, Edinburgh American in the United States; GT in the Far East) are likely to see any immediate benefit from it.

### Traded options

#### There is still a snag

Operators in the traded options market are a particularly optimistic breed. So the fact that the lifting of exchange controls has so far failed palpably to encourage United Kingdom investor interest in overseas options markets has not caused dismay.

Before controls were abandoned, dealings in traded options markets in Amsterdam and the United States were put completely out of court for United Kingdom speculators by a Bank of England ruling that foreign currency had to be bought with premium currency but sold on a normal exchange basis.

So why did the abandonment of this ban cause a ripple of interest from British investors especially bearing in mind that the overseas markets offer the added attraction of "put" options? After all many dealers in the subordinated London options market have argued that activity might have taken off as prices tumbled in the main equity market if only "put" opportunities were available.

The answer lies in the Inland Revenue's treatment of options as "wasting assets" for Capital Gains tax purposes. This effectively means that the value of an option runs to nil over its lifetime so that even where an option is sold at a loss the original purchaser is taxed on the residual value as if it were a profit.

In the London market dealers have become increasingly confident in recent weeks that this penalty will be removed as part of a Government review of Gains Tax next April. Then they believe that interest will take off both in the London market, which is living very much hand to mouth at the moment, and in the international arena.

Even so, this could be a slow process as evidence from the Amsterdam exchange shows. Although introduction of "put" business last March lifted traded volumes sharply, the number of contracts in recent weeks has drifted down to the 2,000-4,000 a day range.

This is long short of the break-even level of 6,000-7,000 contracts daily and persists despite the relative tax freedom continental investors enjoy.

The public sector borrowing requirement in the five financial years to 1978-79 reached a cumulative total of £41,825m and averaged 7.5 per cent of national income. A period of such persistent and heavy deficit financing is unparalleled in Britain's peace-time history.

In consequence, the financial system has been smothered with public sector paper, principally in the form of gilts. About half of savings inflows into pension funds and life insurance companies have been channelled into public sector debt and much of the remainder has been committed to property or overseas investment. The private sector's ability to raise funds from the capital markets has been correspondingly restricted.

Instead companies have financed their investment by exploiting industrial aid schemes, regional grants, allowances against corporation tax liabilities and the like. Decision about the allocation of capital have been determined by political priorities, bureaucratic accidents or quirks of the tax structure. The financial system has been engaged in the socially futile activity of out-guessing each other on the timing of gilt purchases.

This is the true meaning and significance of crowding out. The gross misallocation of resources by the government in the last five years, which has led to a miserable rate of productivity growth and exacerbated the trend towards deindustrialisation, has been made possible by the big PSBR.

The contrast with the 1960s, when for most of the time the PSBR was small and manageable, is instructive. The savings institutions regularly committed half of their inflows to company securities, part to equities and part to the now moribund market in debentures and loan stocks. Public sector debt constituted less than 10 per cent of the assets acquired.

With investment being organized rationally in this way, productivity growth in industry was a healthy 3 per cent or 4 per cent a year. The debate about the size of the PSBR in the 1980-81 financial year should not, therefore, be cramped by short-term macro-economic considerations or be related to what is rather ambitiously

termed "stabilization policy". Rather it should be seen as part of a wider discussion about government's role in industry and on whether public funds are or are not needed in private enterprise.

On this issue the present Government has made its views clear on many occasions: the extent of state intervention is to be reduced and the scope for private sector decision-making enlarged. If the argument developed so far is correct, progressive reductions in the PSBR are an essential element in the strategy.

There is, indeed, no obvious justification for having a budget deficit at all in the long run, since private sector control over investment decisions is maximized when the Government borrows no money in the capital market and provides no special assistance to particular industries or companies.

The Government's task in trimming the PSBR will be

### INVESTMENT PATTERNS OF THE MAJOR SAVINGS INSTITUTIONS

(CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE 1960s AND 1970s)

	Average of 1966-68	Average of 1976-78
Proportion of cash inflows to pension funds and insurance companies invested in:		
Short-term assets	5.9	4.3
Public sector debt	12.2	50.4
Company securities—ordinary shares	27.1	27.3
Company securities—debentures, preferences	28.1	15.8
Property	1.4	2.7
Other investments	100.0	100.0

Brian Capstick

## Labour law reform—will it work?

but this does not get over the problems of who may appear as a defendant at the hearing, of defining what conduct amounts to "picketing", where is the relevant place (what if the pickets move half a mile up the road?) or, most crucial of all, what sanction is to be imposed for non-compliance with the order. The most obvious penalty is imprisonment for contempt of court, but this is likely to create martyrs and thereby inflame rather than diminish the conflict.

A more perennial risk of using the law to curtail industrial conflict is that of exposing the courts to allegations of (albeit unintended) bias. This problem is particularly acute in injunction cases because hearings invariably have to take place at only a day or two's notice and then on a provisional or "interlocutory" basis.

On the supposition that a full trial will eventually take place (although in practice it rarely does), these interim proceedings contain only three safeguards for the defendant. To get his injunction against unlawful picketing, for example, the plaintiff employer has merely to prove that he has a serious case which is likely to succeed at the trial and that the "balance of convenience" lies in his favour.

This involves weighing his tangible and often substantial financial loss against the inevitably more speculative gains which the union hopes to achieve. Critics of this kind of procedure are not without grounds for alleging that it is intrinsically unfair and aggravates the possibility of bringing the law into disrepute.

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which is inherent (as experience of the National Industrial Relations Court reveals) in any jurisdiction over industrial disputes.

The shortcomings of the closed shop proposals are of a different kind. Closed shops are a valuable aid to a stable system of collective bargaining because they reinforce the authority of recognized unions and help to avoid recognition disputes by closing the door to unrecognized unions.

The law has the difficult task of reconciling these desirable industrial relations objectives with the interests of individuals who may have to choose between joining a union or forfeiting their jobs and it is, of course, the Government's aim to extend the rights of the conscientious objector.

The most controversial suggestion in this context is that a new union membership agreement (UMA) should not be introduced unless an overwhelming majority (the CBI suggests 85 per cent) of the workers involved vote in favour of it by secret ballot. This is likely to be a most difficult criterion to meet in practice, because it is unusual for 85 per cent of those involved to vote in an election at all, let alone all in favour of change.

However, employers and unions which cannot muster the required majority will not be prevented from concluding a UMA as a result because the penalty for failing to have a favourable ballot is not as one might expect that the agreement itself is made unlawful, but only that the employer will not be able to use the agreement in defending any unfair dismissal proceedings brought by an employee dismissed for not joining the union.

This penalty is unlikely to be an effective deterrent because dismissals for non-membership are rare and the amounts of compensation awarded by industrial tribunals are not high.

The obvious result predicted by the CBI is that the overwhelming majority requirement is likely to be ignored and will not greatly change existing practices if it is enacted.

A second oddity of this proposal comes to light when it is juxtaposed with the other major "closed shop" reform which is to give existing workers the right to compensation if they are dismissed for non-membership. Given an independent right to compensation it is difficult to see how an existing employee would get any additional benefit if his employer lost a defence to an unfair dismissal claim which the employee could have pursued as an alternative.

It is therefore only the new employee taken on since the introduction of the UMA who might benefit from the proposed change in the unfair dismissal law if an overwhelming majority was not obtained by the secret ballot. But there is no good reason to benefit him exclusively because he would have known of the closed shop before taking up the employment.

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helped in the next few years by increased tax revenues from North Sea oil companies. These will amount to about £750m in 1980/81, £1,500m in 1981/82, £1,750m in 1982/83 and £1,250m in 1983/84. Against this background, a reasonable objective would be to reduce the PSBR (on a constant employment basis) by £2,000m-£2,500m every year for the next four years.

In 1980/81, this should not be difficult for four reasons—the £750m extra North Sea revenue already mentioned; a £1,500m favourable swing from 1979/80 as the full year benefit of 15 per cent VAT takes effect; an increased British Gas Corporation surplus as the gas price is raised towards long-run marginal cost; and possible reductions in Britain's EEC contributions.

By far the most important of these items is the full year benefit of 15 per cent VAT. It is £1,500m higher than this year because in 1979/80 15 per cent VAT covered only a nine-month period and receipts were reduced by payment delays. Many commentators have criticized the steep rise in indirect taxes announced in the June Budget, without noticing that the Government quite cleverly achieved a net increase in revenue by this device.

There has been some controversy about whether the Government should focus on the actual rather than the constant employment PSBR in 1980-81 (i.e. what the PSBR would be if unemployment did not rise in 80-81). It seems inevitable

that, since unemployment will rise next year because of a downturn in economic activity, tax revenues will be reduced beneath trend and social security payments increased. The overall effect may be to enlarge the PSBR by £2,000m-£2,500m. It is unnecessary to take special measures to offset this, as the damage to the public sector's finances should be temporary.

The recommendation that follows from this assessment of pluses and minuses is that the PSBR in 1980-81 should be broadly the same in money terms as in 1979-80, with the influence of lowering the constant employment PSBR unfortunately cancelled by the effects of increased unemployment.

As a favourable underlying trend in the fiscal position would be established by a PSBR of this size, there would ultimately be increased room for private sector borrowing from the capital markets. That might become apparent only in 1982 or 1983 and the gains in an improved productivity performance might take even longer to emerge. But the Government should be under no illusions about how quickly the economy can break out of the habits inculcated by a £41,825m flood of public sector debt in a five-year period.

Next week: Frank Blockley  
Tim Congdon is the economist for stockbrokers L. Messel & Co., and the author of *Monetarism: An Essay in Definition*.

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## Business Diary profile

er carries off the United presidential election, one chief executive would have in his corner is a leader of the AFL-CIO, Kirkland.

land has taken over as the TUC from the 82-George Meany. Both are heavy, horn-rimmed, but in most other respects, personality, education and background, they are more different.

suming and shy, Kirkland is a new generation of union leaders who have their trade in the union cracy rather than on the floor.

57 years ago in Camden, Carolina to an aristocratic family of cotton growers, he became both a sear and a diplomat. When ousted from Georgetown, Washington, shortly after the war, however, Kirkland instead a research with the old American Union of Labour.

last time Meany occupied under two posts, Secretary, the job Kirkland has in the AFL-CIO since

Despite differences in characters they got on well Kirkland was appointed vice assistant to Meany in

have always liked my life



President Carter, AFL-CIO's Lane Kirkland and Teddy Kennedy: I am driven into a desperate strait get star/A middle course.

in the labour movement. I love the people. I love the work. It has been a happy life", he tells people today.

As their friendship developed, Meany found it useful to delegate more and more of the day-to-day running of the organization to his young assistant, Kirkland's patience and willingness to listen in contrast to Meany's

accord" — similar to Len Murray's "social contract" — with President Carter on future economic policy.

In return for help in moderating wage demands, the AFL-CIO secured Administration support in economic and social improvements.

During the negotiations politicians and civil servants found Kirkland to be a tough and effective champion of the labour movement's interests. At one stage Stuart Eizenstat, Carter's domestic affairs advisor, commented: "All he is doing is giving, giving to you, you never give anything in return."

Kirkland has also managed to keep the trade unions united in their response to the new Soviet-American strategic arms limitation agreement. Although he shares his predecessor's suspicion of Russian motives, Kirkland was willing to compromise. He got trade union leaders to approve the SALT agreement provided that America's defences were strengthened.

He is similarly pragmatic in steering the AFL-CIO away from early support of either President Carter or Senator Edward Kennedy for the Democratic presidential nomination next year.

The new AFL-CIO president will, however, need more than diplomacy to resolve some of the less tractable problems confronting the trade union movement in the 1980s.

Critics contend that a general loss of vigour and sense of direction has led to a con-

tinual decline in membership during Meany's last years. According to Bureau of Labour Statistics figures, barely a fifth of the country's workforce belong to a trade union now compared with a third 25 years ago.

Just over 13 per cent of workers are members of the AFL-CIO. Two of the country's largest unions, the United Automobile Workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters left the organization in 1968 and 1957 respectively.

A big reason for this decline is the gradual shift in the American economy away from its northern industrial base, the heartland of the labour movement.

A new generation of administrators, public employees and technologists is generally suspicious of trade unions, particularly in the conservative south where new industries and jobs are being created.

Managements, too, are more sophisticated in their efforts to keep their labour forces non-unionized. Hundreds of consultancies now specialize in advising companies how to break or keep out unions.

Confronted with such problems, the AFL-CIO clearly needs a more assertive and intellectual leadership than before. Kirkland, who would look equally comfortable in the lecture or the boardroom—could be the man for the job.

David Cross

## COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS LIMITED

(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Directors have declared, in respect of the year ending 31st January, 1980, and payable on 10th December, 1979 to Stockholders on the Registers at that time, an Interim Dividend of 4.5 Malaysian cents per 10p stock unit less income tax (previous year 4.5 Malaysian cents).

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Registers of Members of the Company will be closed from the 1st to 10th December, 1979, both dates inclusive, for the preparation of dividend warrants.

### INTERIM STATEMENT



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Milford preparing its strategy

Shareholders of Milford Dock are about to become embroiled in another boardroom coup.

Arriving on their doorstep this morning will be a letter from the chairman, Mr Charles Smith warning that the attempt by a group of investors to replace two of the directors with one of their own men is "no more than an attempted takeover on the cheap".

Mr Smith urges shareholders to reject the demands by Scanoil and others, which claim to hold 27 per cent of the Milford Dock shares.

Mr Richard Eldridge, a director of Scanoil, sought a place on the board earlier this year, when Scanoil held an 8.5 per cent stake in Milford, but could not agree to the conditions. Mr Smith said yesterday: "He could have had a place on the board if he had agreed to provide the cash for the takeover."

TENDERS MUST BE LODGED NOT LATER THAN 10.00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27th NOVEMBER 1979. THE BANK OF ENGLAND, NEW EXCHANGE, LONDON, EC4M 9AA, OR NOT LATER THAN 3.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 28th NOVEMBER 1979. THE BANK OF ENGLAND, THE GLASGOW AGENTS OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, TENDERS MUST BE IN SEALED ENVELOPES MARKED "TREASURY TENDER".

ISSUE BY TENDER OF £1,000,000,000

14 per cent TREASURY STOCK,

1998-2001

MINIMUM TENDER PRICE \$95.50 PER CENT

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:

Deposit with tender £100.00 per cent

On Friday, 14th December, 1979 £100.00 per cent

On Wednesday, 9th January, 1980 Balance of purchase money

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 22nd MAY and 22nd NOVEMBER

This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investment Act 1961. It is not subject to the provisions of the Act. The Government and Company of the Bank of England are authorised to issue this Stock in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The Stock is to be issued in the form of a certificate of stock, which shall be a receipt for the amount of the Stock. The Stock is to be issued in the form of a certificate of stock, which shall be a receipt for the amount of the Stock. The Stock is to be issued in the form of a certificate of stock, which shall be a receipt for the amount of the Stock.

Tenders must be lodged not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 28th November 1979 at the Bank of England, New Exchange, London EC4M 9AA, or not later than 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, 29th November 1979 at the Bank of England, The Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 15 Moir Street, Glasgow, G4 6TA. The minimum price for the Stock is £95.50 per cent. The maximum price for the Stock is £100.00 per cent. The minimum price for the Stock is £95.50 per cent. The maximum price for the Stock is £100.00 per cent.

A separate cheque representing a deposit of £200.00 per cent of the nominal amount of the Stock must be submitted with the tender. The cheque must be drawn on a bank in the United Kingdom and must be payable to the order of the Bank of England. The cheque must be submitted with the tender. The cheque must be drawn on a bank in the United Kingdom and must be payable to the order of the Bank of England. The cheque must be submitted with the tender. The cheque must be drawn on a bank in the United Kingdom and must be payable to the order of the Bank of England.

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Amount of Stock tendered for Multiple £100.00-£200.00 £200.00-£400.00 £400.00-£600.00 £600.00-£800.00 £800.00-£1,000.00 £1,000.00 or greater

Her Majesty's Treasury reserves the right to reject any tender or to allot a less amount than that tendered for. If underpayment of the purchase money is paid, the balance of the purchase money shall be paid to the tenderer. If underpayment of the purchase money is paid, the balance of the purchase money shall be paid to the tenderer. If underpayment of the purchase money is paid, the balance of the purchase money shall be paid to the tenderer.

Letters of allotment may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Exchange, London EC4M 9AA, or not later than 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, 29th November 1979 at the Bank of England, The Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 15 Moir Street, Glasgow, G4 6TA. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment.

Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form. The registration form must be submitted with the tender. The registration form must be submitted with the tender. The registration form must be submitted with the tender. The registration form must be submitted with the tender. The registration form must be submitted with the tender. The registration form must be submitted with the tender. The registration form must be submitted with the tender. The registration form must be submitted with the tender. The registration form must be submitted with the tender.

A contribution at the rate of 12p per £100 of the Stock will be paid to bankers or stockbrokers on allotments made in respect of tenders bearing their stamp. However, no payment will be made where the banker or stockbroker would receive a commission on the sale of the Stock. A contribution at the rate of 12p per £100 of the Stock will be paid to bankers or stockbrokers on allotments made in respect of tenders bearing their stamp. However, no payment will be made where the banker or stockbroker would receive a commission on the sale of the Stock.

Tender forms and copies of this prospectus may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Exchange, London EC4M 9AA, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 15 Moir Street, Glasgow, G4 6TA. Tender forms and copies of this prospectus may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Exchange, London EC4M 9AA, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 15 Moir Street, Glasgow, G4 6TA. Tender forms and copies of this prospectus may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Exchange, London EC4M 9AA, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 15 Moir Street, Glasgow, G4 6TA.

22nd November, 1979.

THIS FORM MAY BE USED

For use by Banker or Stockbroker claiming commission—

VAT Regn. No. (Stamp) (If not registered put "NONE")

This form must be lodged not later than 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 28th November 1979, at the Bank of England, New Exchange, London EC4M 9AA, or not later than 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, 29th November 1979 at the Bank of England, The Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 15 Moir Street, Glasgow, G4 6TA. Tenders must be in sealed envelopes marked "Treasury Tender".

Amount of Stock tendered for Multiple £100.00-£200.00 £200.00-£400.00 £400.00-£600.00 £600.00-£800.00 £800.00-£1,000.00 £1,000.00 or greater

Amount of deposit enclosed, being £200.00 per cent of the nominal amount of Stock tendered for:—

The price tendered per £100 Stock, being a multiple of 25p and not less than the minimum tender price of £95.50—

I hereby engage to pay the instalments as they shall become due on any allotment that may be made in respect of this tender as provided by the terms and conditions of the prospectus.

I/we declare that the tender is not a person resident in Rhodesia (if) and that the security is not being acquired by the tenderer as the nominee of any person(s) resident in Rhodesia.

SIGNATURE of, or on behalf of, tenderer

SURNAME OF TENDERER (MR/MRS/MISS or TITLE)

FIRST NAME(S) IN FULL

ADDRESS IN FULL

A separate cheque must accompany each tender. Cheques should be made payable to "Bank of England" and crossed "Treasury Stock". Cheques must be drawn on a bank in the United Kingdom and must be payable to the order of the Bank of England. The cheque must be submitted with the tender. The cheque must be drawn on a bank in the United Kingdom and must be payable to the order of the Bank of England. The cheque must be submitted with the tender. The cheque must be drawn on a bank in the United Kingdom and must be payable to the order of the Bank of England. The cheque must be submitted with the tender.

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## Main focus is on gilts

In general institutions have been doing little buying or selling of gilts recently. They have been too pre-occupied with stirring events in gilt-edged. But many brokers have persevered with circulars. This may not generate business but they do keep the broker's name before his clients.

James Capel's Mr Tony Penne tells them to boldly buy. The group has been diversifying away from its famous insurance lettering, now widely copied, and one such diversification was the purchase of Stanley Gibbons. To exploit opportunities in this field, Lazard recently had a £9m rights issue.

Mr Penne foresees some dilution in earnings a share from the Gibbons acquisition in 1979-80, but all divisions, graphic, Gibbons and Leisure are growing fast with Gibbons in the van. Earnings should have recovered fully by 1980-81 if, as Mr Penne thinks, pre-tax profits grow from 1978-79's £10.5m to £14.5m in 1980-81.

From J & A Springmount come two missives, the first an engineering bulletin, and the second, a further look at Tarmac. The bulletin comments on leaked Treasury prophecies of decline of up to 25 per cent in some engineering areas, and motor vehicles.

The conclusion of Messrs Colin Fell and Marjorie Windridge is hardly comforting: "there is certainly no conclusive evidence which would point to such a dramatic fall in overall volume although the forecasts for individual constituents are not beyond the realms of reasonable probability". The two outright buyers are Chubb and Martonair.

The broker is well known for its July 1978 verdict on Tarmac—no confidence. It is now explained by analyst Mr F. Well-

ings that new men in the boardroom have led to a "completely new corporate attitude".

The hope is that streamlining of traditional businesses will shift pre-tax profits from 1978's £26.5m to £40.5m in 1980. However it seems that Tarmac uses a lot of cash and eventually there could be a rights issue.

Exactly two varying views of Ultramar, the oil group exploiting into expansion on the back of Indonesian gas and East Canadian oil from Bangor, Gwynedd, comes word from broker R. A. Coleman. This is highly favourable to Ultramar, and for this year the broker estimates profits of £52m and earnings a share of 60p.

Back in London Mr David Gray of William de Broome Hill Chaplin projects earnings of 80p a share. However he regards Ultramar's present progress as exceptional, and next year could see a downturn. He rates the shares a hold only.

Peter Wainwright

## Gold shares regain their lustre

We are all getting excited about gold shares again. The average price received by the South African mines in the last quarter was about £318 an ounce, a rise of some 23 per cent over the previous three months. Profits were around £135 an ounce, a handsome 38 per cent. Moreover, the gold mines index is moving in the right direction, and, unlike earlier periods of fast rising gold prices, and can be expected to register even higher profits in the current quarter. Some analysts are expecting a profit margin of £143 on a metal price averaging £380.

These facts are incontrovertible—give or take the odd dollar—and seem to be fully supported by the market's perception of the political and economic factors. The fact that such perceptions have about them an element of self-interest is irrelevant to the present argument. I remain one of those who inclines to the view that regardless of whether gold is a barometer of the world is unhappily full of barbarians.

Indeed, these are peculiarly good times for the South African mines. Not only are prices exceeding widest expectations, but the labour force is unusually stable. Thousands of black would-be miners are being turned away at the gates. Not only do the mines actually have more than the necessary establishment, but the proportion of those staying longer or returning after a break in their countries of origin or homeland is rising. This brings the added advantage of lower training costs.

Even that great bugbear, wages, does not look quite so threatening. European pay rates rose 10 per cent for miners and officials on May 1 and June 1 respectively. Black wages went up by about 15 per cent from July 1. On average, working conditions rose by approximately 4 per cent in the last three quarters, but in part simply reflects faster in-

## Mining

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## Iran troubles affecting market

Both the tanker and dried cargo market suffered from some easing back during last week. In the case of the tanker market, the easing was due to the recent troubles in Iran were at last showing signs of filtering through to the market.

This resulted in a small decline of rate levels while in dry cargo trading the cause was put down to the approaching end of the Great Lakes season and the Thanksgiving Day holiday in the United States last Thursday.

Overall, it was a generally quieter week for dry cargo activity. The beginning of the week saw a weakening of tone for smaller bulk carriers and this combined with the prospect of end-of-season figures of the Great Lakes and a full

in grain business over the weekend. The weaker tone was indicated by the Chinese booking of a 42,000 tonner for a grain cargo out of the United States Gulf at \$42.50 for a December position. This represented a decline of about 50 cents on a

33,000 ton vessel for a November position at \$41.50 and a 25,000 tonner at \$43.50 for December loading.

According to market sources these bookings completed China's grain chartering programme for November and December although they were still open for January.

Among the last Great Lakes fixtures were two midweek ones for grain shipments, both of around 16,000 tons of which one obtained \$42 and the other \$44.50. Both cargoes were bound for the Continent.

One bright spot throughout the week was the strength shown in the time charter market sector.

## Freight report

Fixture done in a previous week which involved a 33,000 ton carrier. Apparently the Chinese were not so anxious as earlier to arrange forward positions in January. Other Chinese charters through the week included

the potential for coming into conflict with the United States. Hence, it was argued that investors in many countries have begun to look upon the Deutschemark as an alternative to the Deutsche Mark. It is not subject to the "Kuponsteuer" or withholding tax that applies to German bonds. Some bankers also contended that there are some good fundamental reasons for the upsurge in demand.

The German Government's council of economic experts, sometimes known as the Five Wise Men, has projected that Germany's inflation rate will drop to between 3.5 and 4 per cent next year. At mid-December, Germany's consumer price index was up 5.7 per cent.

With yields of five to 15-year Deutschemark Eurobonds ranging between 7.75 and 8.35 per cent, the forecast of a 3.5 to 4.0 per cent inflation rate implies a fairly large "real" yield after the effects of inflation have been deducted.

Some bankers related the upsurge in demand to the United States' decision to block transfer of dollars by Iranian government entities in American banks. These bankers contended that the United States' precedent of freezing bank accounts in response to political reasons, however good the justification, makes the dollar a less trustworthy asset for investors in countries that have

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## Wall Street

New York, Nov 23—Energy and defence aerospace issues led the stock market higher in the slowest trading since November 6 when many banks were closed for election.

Analysts said that with no new adverse developments in Iran, the market was able to extend Wednesday's late recovery. The market was closed on Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Dow Jones Industrial average rose 4.35 points, and advances led declines nine to five as turnover slowed to 23 million shares from 37.02 million Wednesday.

US silver up 32 pts

New York, Nov 23—Comex silver futures rose 32 cents to \$10.32 a pound on Tuesday, following a late recovery after a sharp decline on Monday.

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## Spotlight switches to BP

Third-quarter figures from British Petroleum on Thursday are estimated to be between £400m and £450m. Compared with £350m last time, and is widely expected to be a record.

The only economic indicator of any interest to the market comes on Tuesday with the CBI monthly trends inquiry.

On the same day Allied Breweries will release its interim figures, which judging by expectations, of between £20m and £25m, means that the city has very little idea of what to expect as a result of the change in year end from September to February.

Further confusion could well arise once the interim and full year figures are released as they are most likely to include exceptional items such as property sales, exchange rates and other items.

As a rough guide, however, analysts predict that the first six months are likely to reflect pre-Christmas buying, some recovery in the manufacturing sector, coupled with the continued recovery of Lyons and should more than offset the dispiriting which the group has recently suffered.

Profits for the full year, including exceptional items, are pitched between £110m and £130m compared with £112.3m last time.

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**HENRY BUTCHER**  
LEOPOLD FARMER

**VALUATIONS  
& SALES  
PROPERTY  
AND PLANT**  
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LEEDS

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]



## Testing time all round for Francombe

The first half of this week is brimful of interest, with Windsor, Huntingdon, Heydock Park and Doncaster all riding on roles of importance. First things first, however. The champion jockey, John Francombe reckons that now is the right moment to return to the fray and to subject his back to another test of strength. He has not ridden in public for 12 days, but after extensive treatment in London he now feels that he has got enough to pursue an old favourite, Sonny Somers, in the Salt Hill Handicap Steeplechase at Windsor.

This will be a crucial test of that back which has been distinctly troublesome of late, because of two important questions—namely who will ride the 1978 Goffs Cup and Mildmay Stakes in comeback race at Huntingdon tomorrow and who will ride Beeder in his first race since the incident in his home race at Farnham on Monday. For a day later, Framcome is pledged to ride both if he feels that he is fit enough to do so. But if he is not, then justice. But if he is not, he will cry off in favour of Oliver Wood and Ron Barry, respectively.

Framcome felt that he was alright enough to ride in the 1978 Goffs Cup on downs above Lambourn towards the end of last week, but the fact that riding work at home is one thing, race riding is a totally different matter. He was in the first six of the 1978 Goffs Cup and a hardy ride on the course that proved his undying at Newbury 12 days

The Petersburg Steeplechase, which is to be Midnight Court's race at Huntington tomorrow, will be the first of a series of races on the Gold Cup at Cheltenham 20 months ago. A suspicion of Midnight Court's ability was first shown when running at all last season, but, tough work, the horse and those who rode him were not given a chance. Huntington looks an ideal place for him to begin the comeback trail, which it goes without saying that the Kempton Park on Boxing Day and the King George VI Steeplechase, a race which is expected to be won by one of another horse who will also be very much in the public eye tomorrow.

Spartan won the Kempton race last season, but leg trouble also denied him a crack at the Gold Cup. It is a very important time for him and for his trainer, Tony Dickinson. The horse has been in the best of health at Teasdale Park tomorrow has been chosen for his first race since he was sent to the stud in February. On Wednesday, Gay Spartan's silver stable companion, Silver, will oppose another

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of two jockeys on horses during a race. The jockey on the right is in a more prominent, forward-leaning position, while the jockey on the left is slightly behind. The background is a bright, textured surface, possibly a track or sky.

Steve Smith-Eccles appears to have the whip hand on Zongalero as they jump the I but Richard Linley on Fighting Fit is waiting to pounce.

King George, the Border Incident in the Edward Hammer Memorial Steeplechase at Haydock.

There were only eight acceptances for the race on the four-day fortnight stage. As two of them were Gay Sparrow himself and Fighting Elk, the hero of the steeplechase, the odds were heavily against the pair. As the Newbury on Saturday, it is more than possible that Border Incident will have barely a handful of supporters. The race will attract a large crowd, however, from the spectacle. Both Border Incident and Silver Buck have won the Embassy Stakes at Sandown Park. The Grand National at this time and Peter Easterby can add even more spice to what already looks a savoury dash by running in the famous race or Ann's Prince.

Aldanov, who was trying to give Fighting Elk 3lb in the Scotland Cup, was sent to the hospital in April when he was eventually beaten two and a half lengths by the winner. It is also an acceptor for the race.

My friend, who is a well known name, John Gifford, told me that he may well decide to keep him in reserve for Friday's Wellington Stakes at Sandown Park instead.

Incidentally, Gifford was not

was poured with the swarms' decision to withdraw. Jack Madness from the Hammersmith Copper Cold Cup at Newbury on Saturday. He was the only one of his kind, or his wife. Admittedly his horse delayed the start by 22 minutes by throwing his jockey and then, after a 10-minute delay at the post, he himself remained adamant that Jack Madness was still fresh enough after his unscintillating performance in the first race. It was to be thought to have at least been given the opportunity to give his backers a run.

By all accounts, BBC Television should have also given racing coverage the following day. It was, of course, an opportunity to see the race live, in spite of their delay at the start, instead of rushing the heading to 'Twickenham' and then, after a 10-minute delay, the big race was run, besides the players running on to the pitch, the band marching off, and then the final minutes of the game. It was missed only three minutes' play.

It seems to me that the BBC, and the snuck of inflexibility of the Times, have been the cause of the fact that viewers had another 71 minutes or so in which to indulge themselves in rugby thereafter.

In the event at Newmarket, the Fighting Irish's strong finish kept him in line for top honours, but he was not so lucky as he manages to dust up his jockey, Cheltenham in March is much on the cards, but not so much as the Irishman's chances the fourth time in a big race, the last 12 months. Zong's inevitable fall in the final was not a disaster for the British but never the bride. However he is fair to the horse, who has been a good horse, but he did absolutely nothing wrong on this occasion and one day big moment will come. No! I am sure he will be able to catch more at present.

Finally, Royal Stuart ran though his is a name to be mind for the Welsh Grand National. He is a good horse, but Christmas, when Coral's the sors of the race nowadays, that the moment is ripe to take an one-post look on race.

STATE OF GOING (off)  
Windsor, good; Southwell, soft;  
Wetherhampton, good (chase), good t  
(hurdles). Tomorrow: Hunting  
good; Plumpton, soft; Teasdale  
good.

**12.45 WULFRUNA CHASE** (Novices : £998 : 2½m)  
Sire: 7-11-5. Dam: 7-11-5. Breeder: 7-11-5.

[illegible]

1.0 ROYAL BOROUGH HURDLE (

[illegible]

301 101- Toy Flag (D), T. Foster, 101-  
302 110-21 Mender, R. Armytage M-11-  
306 3-32-2- Sonny Somers (D), E. Winter

[illegible]

505 Dred Scott, K. Ivory: 7-11-5  
514 English Export, D. Jersey. 5-1  
505 Moon Hawk, W. Charlos. 5-1  
514

6071	0-	Penny Sackin	H. Brown	5-11-6	C. Jones
6117	0-	Ridgeman	M. Vetter	5-11-6	R. Jones
6118	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	M. Mann
6119	0000-00	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
612	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
613	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
614	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
615	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
616	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
617	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
618	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
619	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
620	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
621	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
622	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
623	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
624	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
625	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
626	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
627	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
628	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
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630	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
631	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
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638	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
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665	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
666	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
667	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
668	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
669	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
670	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
671	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
672	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
673	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	R. Hobbs
674	0-	Reilly	R. Saine	5-11-6	

2.45 BRIDGES BRIDGE MURDER

[illegible]

By Our Racing Staff  
12.45 Top-N-Tale. 1.15 Roadhead. 1.45

McAdam, 3-15 Sharpferdets.

12.45 EAKRING HURDLE (Div I: Nov)  
1- 2000-31 Halex-Loup (CD), T. Barron, 5-

[illegible]

00-3221 Shifting Gold (CD), K. Bailey. 10  
10404a Bunker, G. Richards. 6-10-13

5 414331. Fittsman, C. R., Thompson, L. 10-1 M. Siriso  
8 424402 Turk (C), L. Furnan, 7-10-3 S. J.  
10 200-03p Sir Garnet (D), D. Chapman, 10-10-3 N.  
6-4 Shining Gold, 5-2 Jester's Cap, 6-1 Burelar, 7-1 Turk, 10-1 Filite  
12-1, Sir Garnet.

0-010-00 : Silverthorn (D), J. Edwards, 7-1  
0-010-01 : Kirwagh (CD), G. Richards, 11-  
0-010-02 : Boardman Special, W. Stephenson  
0-010-03 : Jellingsburg, Mrs. M. Thomas, 3-

[illegible]

1002a-4  
pfs  
10-004  
Slawbury Downs, C. Drew. 9-10-12  
Earby Saint, D. Chapman. 6-10-12  
Flery Coin, J. Fitzgerald. 9-10-12

[illegible]

1	5-0	Arnon Bruce, J. B. Smith, 6-10-1
6	0	Declar. Sch. S. Natriss, 6-10-11
7	400-010	Florida, D. Wink, 5-10-11

[illegible]















